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THE TIMES

Are examinations the answer for schools? Page 12

eaths of Uganda archbishop and Amin ministers bring world condemnation

aths in Kampala of the Anglican Arch- of Uganda and two of President Amin's .. ministers have brought strong re- from the World Council of Churches, the International Commission of Jurists and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan, among others. There was scepticism about the official version that they died accidentally.

ested men died in road accident, radio says

Feb 17.—The Angli- ishop of Uganda and 1et ministers were Kampala road acci- trying to escape their alleged part in gainst President Idi Ugandan Govern- unced today.

:hbishop, Dr Janani together with Mr Charles Oboth- e Interior Minister, Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson Oryema, the ister, tried to over- driver of a vehicle em to an officers' nterrogation, Uganda

ted that the vehicle r and overturned, he roof. The three dead when they d from the wreckage driver, identified as oses, was seriously

radio said a full in- would be held into and the circum- ading to it. The s were taken to hos- ost-mortem examina-

ident occurred yes- r an open-air rally e alleged conspira- statements implicat- rchbishop and the n the abortive plot. outed: "Kill them, now !"

hbishop, who was the rally, shook his ent denial when his mentioned in a said to have been ex-President Milton e man President hrew in 1971.

Amin said last 1at Dr Obote was conspiracy to kill stage a coup using de arms smuggled bbouring Tanzania. President rejected r the summary exe- the alleged plotters d on a proper mili- according to Kam- i.

The Archbishop of Uganda, Dr Luwum, whose death was mourned by the General Synod yesterday. Obituary, page 14

After the death of the accused archbishop and the two ministers, a presidential spokesman speaking by telephone from Kampala said: "It is a terrible shock to everyone."

Dr Luwum, aged 52, was enthroned in June, 1974 and was only the second African cleric to head the archdiocese which covered Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Boga-Zaire, an area of western Zaire. A student of the London College of Divinity, he headed a community of three million Anglicans.

Mr Oboth-Ofumbi, once regarded as the closest civilian to the President in the Ugandan hierarchy, was Minister of State for Defence in the President's first Cabinet after the 1971 coup.

Colonel Oryema was chief of police in 1971 and went on the radio within hours of the coup to broadcast support for President Amin, then a major-general.—Reuter.

Our Nairobi Correspondent writes: There was no explanation for the long delay in announcing the deaths—about 16 hours—which must help to arouse suspicion about the actual cause.

The fact that the three had died so soon after being arrested and in such unusual circumstances, was bound to arouse doubts, given the highly charged situation existing in Uganda.

Today Canon Burgess Carr, the Liberian general secretary of the All-Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), based in Nairobi, described the archbishop's death as murder by the Ugandan security forces.

It was inconceivable, he said, that the archbishop and the ministers could have been taken without further escort for interrogation. The official version was "preposterous", he said, and the AACC was alarmed by indications that the archbishop's murder might be part of a campaign of terror against the Christians of Uganda.

The AACC has repeated its request to send a high powered African church delegation to Uganda but has had no response.

This is the centenary year of Christianity in Uganda, marking the arrival in 1877 of the first missionaries from the Church Missionary Society, forerunners of the Church of Uganda. Archbishop Luwum had been closely concerned in the plans to mark the centenary but they are now in obvious doubt.

The archbishop's funeral is to be held in St Paul's Cathedral, Kampala, on Sunday, and thousands of Christians are expected to attend. The ceremony may well be a tense occasion.

President Amin has suggested that the Presidents of Kenya and Tanzania should join him in Kampala next Monday for a special meeting of the East African Authority, supreme body of the East African Community, which has been shaken by recent quarrels among the three states.

No meeting of the authority has taken place since President Amin came to power in 1971.

Coggan voices Church's shock and outrage

Longley
ffairs
ent

rds of outrage and e Archbishop of , Dr Coggan, inter- e business of the nod of the Church of esterday to express e concern" at the he Anglican Church and the fate of Luwum.

gan recalled Dr great courage and With his fellow had from time to emned the Govern- Uganda's "summary great numbers of its defence of inter- y". But his criticisms been peaceable and

adcast of his Christ- n, in which he was the only true victory f suffering love, had been cut off unfinished on the grounds that it was political comment.

Dr Coggan added: "It came as a great shock to hear of the archbishop's public arraignment, sudden arrest and almost immediate death while in the hands of the security forces, together with two ministers of the Cabinet who were also Christians."

He read to the synod a cable he had just received from the Apostolic Delegate in London, Archbishop Bruno Heim, expressing the Roman Catholic Church's support and sympathy for the Church of England.

Dr Luwum's predecessor as Archbishop of Uganda, the Rt Rev Leslie Brown, now Bishop of Edmundsbury and Ipswich, read to the synod an open letter, sent to General Amin by the 18 Ugandan Anglican bishops on Tuesday.

It said: "The gun whose muzzle has been pressed against the bishop's stomach, the gun which has been used to search the Bishop of Bukeli's house is the gun which is being pointed at every Christian in the Church. We have buried many who have died as a result of being shot and there are many more whose bodies have not been found. Their disappearance is connected with the activities of some members of the security forces.

"This brain-drain from our country, the fear and mistrust, make development, progress and stability impossible. The gun which was meant to protect Uganda as a nation, the Ugandan as citizen, and his property, is increasingly being used against the Ugandan to take away his life and property."

After further tributes the synod stood for a moment in silence.

The Kampala deaths also provoked strong reactions from the World Council of Churches, and the International Commission of Jurists, both of which issued statements in Geneva (full report, page 8).

The jurists said bluntly that the deaths were an assassination. "The pretence that they were killed in a motor accident will deceive no one", the statement said.

The executive committee of the World Council of Churches asked for an international investigation into the killings, requested the United Nations Human Rights Commission to inquire into violations of human rights in Uganda and appealed particularly to African nations to take action against further loss of life in the country.

British dilemma, page 8;
Leading article, page 13;
Synod report, page 14.

Dr Sakharov receives letter from Mr Carter

Moscow, Feb 17.—Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Russian dissident leader, received a personal letter today from President Carter, an unprecedented move that threatens to increase the American-Soviet conflict over human rights in the Soviet Union.

Dr Sakharov said the letter was the first he had ever received from the United States Government. It had been handed over to him at the American embassy in Moscow.

Dr Sakharov showed the original of the letter on White House notepaper to journalists. He said he had sent a reply to the President immediately. The letter was dated February 5 and came in reply to an earlier letter from Dr Sakharov to Mr Carter soon after his inauguration last month.

Dr Sakharov said he had been telephoned by a diplomat at the American embassy and told to go there.

An American official had met him outside the building and conducted him past the police guard. He spent some 30 minutes talking to the diplomat and giving his views on the human rights situation in the Soviet Union.

In his first letter to the President, dated January 21, Dr Sakharov called on him to carry out his pre-election pledges to defend human rights throughout the world. That letter, Dr Sakharov said tonight, was carried to Washington by an American who visited his flat. He gave no further details about the courier.

Dr Sakharov said he regarded the President's decision to communicate with him directly as "an expression of support for the human rights movement in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe". He added: "If he has taken such a step it will not, I think, be an isolated one. After such steps, others always follow."

The President's letter said:

Dear Professor Sakharov,

I received your letter of January 21, and I want to express my appreciation to you for bringing your thoughts to my personal attention.

Human rights is a central concern of my administration. In my inaugural address I stated: "Because we are free, we can never be indifferent to the fate of freedom elsewhere." You may rest assured that the American people and our Government will continue our firm commitment to promote respect for human rights not only in our country but also abroad.

We shall use our good offices to seek the release of prisoners of conscience, and we will continue our efforts to shape a world responsive to human aspirations in which nationals of differing cultures and histories can live side by side in peace and justice.

I am always glad to hear from you and I wish you well.

Sincerely, Jimmy Carter.—Reuter and AP.

Threat to détente, page 9

Mr Crosland's condition still critical

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Crosland's condition remains critical, and there has been no further sign of deterioration or improvement, a hospital representative said yesterday.

The Foreign Secretary was admitted to the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford on Sunday, suffering from a stroke. He has been unconscious since then.

His wife, Susan, and her daughters, Sheila, who arrived yesterday from the United States, and Ellen, are at his bedside.

Government will ask Commons next Tuesday to approve guillotine on devolution Bill

By David Wood
Political Editor

The Cabinet decided yesterday to use the guillotine on the devolution Bill. After conceding a consultative referendum in the Commons this week, Mr Foot, Leader of the House, and the Government Chief Whip will put their fortunes to the touch next Tuesday, when there will be a three-hour debate and then a division.

No one may yet be sure that the Government can win the division unless most of the 13 Liberals make common cause with the Scottish National Party and Plaid Cymru to support the Government. Some experienced goverment business managers still held last night that the guillotine motion will be narrowly defeated and that Mr Callaghan and the Cabinet will have to abandon the Bill and blame the Conservatives.

Mr Foot and Mr Cocks, the chief whip, however, had no choice except to impose a timetable. Amid all the opposition outcry in the House yesterday the news had a fairly warm welcome from backbenchers who want to make sure that the Scotland and Wales Bill does not obstruct all other business for most of the rest of the parliamentary session. It is probably the least-loved Bill that any government has introduced in recent years.

On present threats at least 20 Labour backbenchers, several of them from Scotland and Wales, will vote against a guillotine or abstain. But there will probably be more abstentions than votes against; and some Liberals, although they have lost the battle on proportional election of the Edinburgh and Cardiff assemblies, will not want to put the whole devolution proposal at risk by voting with the Conservatives.

Last night the unofficial whips of the Labour opponents of devolution said they were assured of 21 votes against the guillotine motion, possibly 22. Two Welsh Labour MPs, Mr Alfred Evans, Caerphilly, and Mr Leo Abse, Pontypool, intend to oppose the Bill to the end, and three other Welsh Labour backbenchers insist that they will abstain.

Others who say they will vote against the Bill, or a guillotine to carry it, include a few Scottish MPs and some English Labour backbenchers, especially from the North-east and the North-west.

If the Government fails to carry the timetable motion curtailing the committee stage it is scarcely conceivable that Mr Callaghan and the Cabinet could decide to fight the Bill through until June or July, and then find it at risk in the Lords late in the session.

The threats of the Labour Party National Executive Committee to abolish the House of Lords have put the peers, not least Labour peers, on their mettle. As a constitutional measure of high importance the Scotland and Wales Bill could properly be given a long examination in the Lords, whether there is a guillotine in the Commons or not. Certainly, few peers feel they have much to lose by doing their duty as they see it.

Party managers on both sides of the Commons were assuming last night that the Liberal Party would split between the Government and the Opposition, and that the smaller groups in the House would counterbalance each other. That leaves the Government's fate in the hands of its own dissident backbenchers; and both the Prime Minister and the government whips are at work on them.

Mrs Thatcher has sent out orders for a strict three-line whip. The only exception will be the pairing of Mr Crosland, who is critically ill.

Much of the Conservative hostility to a guillotine is directed at Mr Foot. As Mr Taylor, spokesman on *Scotland*, commented last night: "It seems outrageous for Michael Foot of all people to force a guillotine on a constitutional Bill when he went into a near frenzy when a guillotine was moved on the Common Market."

A group of English Conservative backbenchers are concerting a campaign at the weekend, in which they will argue that if

Continued on page 2, col 5

Two Seveso babies 'deformed'

From Patricia Clough
Rome, Feb 17

A doctor working in Seveso, near Milan, said today that two women exposed to the poisonous dioxin during pregnancy had given birth to deformed babies. The dioxin escaped from a chemical plant on July 10 last year.

The Lombardy regional government, which is keeping watch on the health of inhabitants of the contaminated area, says it knows nothing of the two cases and is checking the claim.

Dr Dario Miedico said one child was born a month ago to a woman in Pavia who had visited her sister-in-law at Seveso regularly during the first weeks after the escape of dioxin from the Icmesa plant, when the full extent of the danger was not known.

She had eaten contaminated produce grown in the garden and had been included by the medical authorities in the high risk group of expectant mothers.

The baby was born with its intestines blocked in three places, he said. It had been operated on and was still in an incubator. The second baby was born to a woman in Cesano Maderno, a community near Seveso. It has a similar deformation of the intestines.

Dr Miedico refused to identify the children, saying that the families wanted it kept quiet.

A man is reported to have declared at a recent Milan University debate that his wife, who teaches near Seveso, gave birth on January 18 to a child with a malformation of the palate.

This was confirmed at the Milan hospital where the baby was born, but the head of the gynaecological department said the woman worked outside the contaminated area and "we do not think that there is any connexion with the dioxin".

Hybrid ruling blow to nationalization plans

By Martin Huckerby
and David Leigh

A severe blow to crucial sections of government plans to nationalize the aircraft and shipbuilding industries was dealt by the Examiners of Private Bills in the House of Lords yesterday when they declared the nationalization measure hybrid.

The Government has had to invoke the provisions of the Parliament Act to get the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill this far in its entirety. The Lords threw out the ship-repairing section last session and only when the Commons demanded its inclusion did the peers turn again to the tactic of hybridity.

Despite the delay caused by the hybridity finding, the Bill must eventually become law this session. The Government does not have to make any changes, although it is a prisoner of the Lords hybridity procedure. The difficulty is one of further delay.

Assuming ministers do not find an escape hatch in the small print of the hybridity finding, the Government to speed matters, has one option—an offer to drop the contentious ship-repairing clauses.

That would enable the rest of the Bill to go through in a few weeks. The Prime Minister came under further pressure yesterday from the shipbuilding union to minimize delay because the industry is in severe trouble.

But, if backbench opinion finds such a retreat intolerable, the Bill still becomes law by autumn.

The Bill was declared hybrid (differing in its effects on similar categories of persons or bodies) because it omitted the Westminster Dredging Company and because a condition about the turnover of companies to be nationalized was not germane to the subject matter.

The size of a company's turnover was one condition for nationalization, but the examiners pointed out that in at least one company, the Humber Graving Dock and Engineering Company, about two fifths of the turnover required by the Bill did not relate to ship-repairing business.

Unless the Government backs down the Lords' standing orders committee will decide what happens to the Bill. The committee, which is expected to meet next week, possibly on Tuesday, will probably decide to refer the Bill to a select committee, which would hear petitions from people who might be affected.

Mr Christopher Bailey, chairman of Bristol Channel Ship Repairers, who has been fighting the Bill, said that if the select committee was established he would petition for his company to be dropped from the nationalization list.

Because many people might take advantage of the procedure to raise a variety of issues, the select-committee procedure might prove even more protracted than the hearings before the examiners.

After 26 days of hearings the examiners delivered a 15-page judgment to an audience, including MPs and peers, crowding the Moses Room in the House of Lords. Mr T. G. Talbot, QC, counsel to the chairman of committees in the

Continued on page 2, col 8

C call for licences to ate newspapers

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g contender for one nost powerful trade itions in Britain sug- sterday that news- ners should be re- exercise their powers terms of an opera- ce.

ss Evans, national for the Transport ral Workers' Union, ference on the media, by the TUC, that such would protect the m any abuse of the lly dangerous power" mmunity.

ans, who is thought eplace Mr Jack Jones l secretary of the id there should be a commission for the ich would give large sentative groups such union movement the ty to enter national publishing through a ress finance corpora-

the commission should continuous check to ny further concentra- wnership, advise the nt on subsidies, handle s on lack of balance, rage industrial demo- the industry.

hould be a fight for a ss. But a freedom limited to a small and powerful section of the community was not freedom, but privilege and patronage.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, told the conference that biased reporting of Britain's industrial affairs had serious effects on the economy.

Such misrepresentation, he said, affected Britain's reputation abroad. "The result is that sterling is damaged, exports are lost and investment deflected."

The impression was given of Britain's being down and out, with poor industrial relations primarily responsible. Similar prominence was not given to support for the pay policy by unions or the remarkable reduction of days lost through disputes.

Mr Murray said unions had the right to challenge people in the media and there were too many examples of blatantly bad reporting, which suggested that the movement was the disruptive element.

Mr William Keys, general secretary of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, said a group of unionists was examining the possibility of bringing out a daily paper about the movement and the people.

Moss Evans speech, page 7

get fixed for March 29

hancellor of the Ex- will open his Budget n the Commons on March 29 (our Editor writes). Mak- announcement in the esterday, Mr Foot, the ent's principal manager, left it to be that Mr Healey would still be in charge of the Treasury on the day.

Labour MPs believe it is unlikely that the Prime Minister could remove Mr Healey to the Foreign Office to succeed the stricken Mr Crosland until he has prepared a Budget and attempted to make a deal with the TUC for a third year of pay restraint.

Clearing banks cut base rates to 11½%

The major clearing banks cut their base rates by one point to 11½ per cent, which means that industry will now be borrowing at 12½ per cent against the crisis level of 15 per cent in the autumn. This cut does not necessarily mean that mortgages will be cheaper. Meanwhile Bank of England figures show that the Government is now comfortably inside its target for monetary expansion Page 17

Coal price warning

Coal prices are to rise by 15 per cent from April 1 and the National Coal Board gave a warning that there might have to be more increases in the autumn to cover the cost of early retirement for miners. The board hopes this can be met by improved productivity Page 17

£132,970 damages

A university graduate, aged 28, confined to a wheelchair after a car crash, was awarded £132,970 damages by a High Court judge in London. The previous highest award in England was £130,110 to a Bristol executive for brain damage
Law Report, page 16

Solar energy plan

The Government is to spend about £6m during the next four years in an accelerated programme of research and development on the use of solar energy, mainly for domestic water and space heating Page 2

Rome students clash

Extreme left-wing students shouted down Signor Luciano Lama, a leading Communist trade unionist, who tried to address them at Rome University. A clash between Communist and extreme left-wing students followed in which 50 students were injured Page 7

Holiday fund levy may be reduced

Discussions which could result in cheaper package holidays are about to take place between the Government's Air Travel Reserve Fund Agency and the Civil Aviation Authority. At present all holidaymakers taking air inclusive holidays pay a levy of 2 per cent to the fund but this may be reduced because of the growth of the fund Page 18

Fee-paying places

Almost half the education authorities in England and Wales are still taking places at independent schools, a survey published today by *The Times Educational Supplement* shows. Councils paid £23m for 40,000 places in 1976-77 Page 2

Anglo-Irish strain

Observers think Anglo-Irish relations are nearing their lowest ebb since the British Embassy in Dublin was razed five years ago. Litigation over Irish allegations of British torture in Ulster and the coming trial of British soldiers in Dublin are primary causes Page 4

Deportation appeals: Mr Philip Agee is petitioning the Edinburgh Court of Sessions to prevent his deportation. Mr Mark Hosenball is seeking to appeal against a similar order 2

Legal fusion opposed: High Court judges have opposed fusion of the two branches of the legal profession on the ground of cost and ethics 4

Council chairman jailed: George Newman, chairman of Staffordshire County Council, has been jailed for corruption and banned from serving in public life for five years 4

Bonn: Men tread warily as women romp during Rhineland carnival 7

South Africa: The Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town joins the growing church-state confrontation with a statement condemning security police methods 8

Banking in the Middle East: A 10-page Special Report on financial trends in one of the fastest developing regions of the world

Bread strike call

The Bakers' Union instructed its members to take industrial action from Sunday week in an equal-pay dispute. Severe disruption of supplies is inevitable if the action goes ahead, but some bread will be produced at smaller bakeries Page 2

HOME NEWS

Councils spent £23m on places at independent schools

By Mark Vaughan, of *The Times Educational Supplement*

Nearly half the educational authorities in England and Wales are still taking many places at independent schools. A survey by *The Times Educational Supplement* shows the number paid for by local education authorities throughout the country exceeded 40,000 and cost more than £23m in 1976-77.

The findings come as the Government is urging local authorities to curb spending and eliminate selection by adopting comprehensive systems. Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has been questioning education authorities about the cost.

Her department is examining replies received so far; eight are still to come. *The Times Educational Supplement* survey, conducted this month and published today had a full response.

It shows that 46 authorities still spend heavily on independent school places, 39 take up none, and 19 take only a handful of places.

For the 46 heavy spenders the average bill this year will be £500,000 and the average cost of each place £575. According to the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign Office, central government will spend another £36m on more places, bringing the total state spending on the independent sector to at least £59m this year.

Lancashire this year is paying just less than £3m for 6,275 places; followed by Cheshire's 3,650 places (£2.3m); Trafford's 2,270 places (£1.2m); Avon's 1,922 places (£900,000); Bolton's 1,890 places (£856,000) and Croydon's 1,686 places (just under £1m).

The survey which excluded all special schools, shows that four fifths of the big spenders are Conservative-controlled authorities. Only four are Labour and three of those said their system was due to end this year.

Seven of the eight "rebel" authorities, who two years ago told the Government they had no intention of going fully comprehensive, appear in the group of 46. They are Bexley, Essex, Kingston upon Thames, Redbridge, Sutton, Tameside and Trafford. Only Buckinghamshire is excluded.

The commonest reasons given for taking places were shortages of places in state schools (32 out of 46 authorities) and religion.

Other heavy spenders include Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bromley, Bury, Devon, Hertfordshire, Liverpool, Newcastle, Sefton and Surrey.

The survey shows that in two years the 46 heavy spenders have reduced consumption of places by 10 per cent on average.

Most gave several reasons for taking places, although it is apparent from the replies that many carry on traditional links with the private sector so that a few academically able pupils can continue to be selected from the state system.

Among authorities that the survey shows clearly come into the last category are Avon, Bolton, Dorset. Essex. Kent, Lincolnshire, Oxfordshire and Surrey.

Teachers are split on examination need

By Judith Judd, of *The Times Higher Education Supplement*

Pressures for the widespread and indiscriminate testing of children should be resisted, the National Union of Teachers says in its contribution to the educational debate, published today.

The document argues for a common examination for all 16-year-olds as "the most significant single measure that could be taken at this time to obtain reliable information about the performance of pupils and schools".

It says that if systems of national testing were to be imposed on all pupils at various ages, education would suffer.

On the curriculum, the paper says that a real danger arises from the specification of subjects to be taught and assessed. The union believes this would lead to "irresistible pressures" from parents, examining bodies, managers and local authorities to concentrate on the specified subjects, as happened under the School Certificate and 11-plus systems.

Since teachers are accountable for their pupils' achievements, they must also be responsible for the curriculum, the NUT says.

Annual examinations: Britain's third largest teachers' union, the Assistant Masters' Association, today calls for a return to full-scale, formal, annual examinations in secondary schools, instead of relying on assessment.

The association, which has 40,000 members, including a high proportion of graduates, believe that all children benefit from formal testing of their academic progress.

Parliamentary report, page 6

£6m plan to develop solar energy

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Correspondent

The Government is to spend about £6m during the next four years in an accelerated programme of research and development on the use of solar energy, mainly for domestic water and space heating, Mr Alex Eadie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Energy, announced yesterday.

Existing programmes of the Department of the Environment and the Department of Industry will account for about £2,400,000 of the total. A new programme by the Department of Energy will add a further £3,600,000.

In a parliamentary reply Mr Eadie said that the main areas of the Department of Energy programme would be solar water and space heating; data on the amount of solar energy received; and research into biological systems.

"The use of solar energy for water and space heating has been identified as the area of greatest potential return", Mr Eadie said. Some industrial solar energy research was being carried out and a main part of the new programme would be in the form of contracts in support of existing industrial initiatives.

"The Building Research Establishment will also undertake a large share of the work, while supporting and fundamental studies will be carried out by academic institutions."

The Meteorological Office had for many years recorded the published data on the use of solar energy in buildings, he continued. As interest in the subject grew, more information would be needed in urban areas.

"The direct or indirect production of liquid or gaseous fuels through the use of biological systems is a challenging long-term possibility."

According to a report by the department's energy technology support unit at Harwell, the sun could be making a "significant contribution" to meeting the United Kingdom's energy needs, equivalent to about 2 per cent of present consumption, within the next 25 years. In the longer term, perhaps 25 years after that, that might increase tenfold.

At a press conference yesterday Mr Eadie said the new solar-power programme came after similar research commitments on wave power and on geothermal energy, and other alternative sources of energy were being examined.

Dr Walter Marshall, chief scientist, Department of Energy, said a main aim of the new programme was to accelerate the application of solar power by assessing and, where appropriate, part-funding the activities of commercial firms. The department would offer up to half of the funding required

If the projects were commercially successful, the Government would expect a return out of profits. Five companies' proposals had already been authorized for contract signature.

Taking the heat, page 19

Deportation move i... Scots court by Mr A...

By Stewart Tendler
Home Affairs Reporter

Two detectives and a Home Office official last night served a deportation notice on Mr Philip Agee, the former CIA agent, who is in Edinburgh seeking to use Scottish law to forestall or evade the Home Secretary's decision.

Mr Agee is being deported for reasons of national security, as is Mr Mark Hosenball, a journalist working for the *Evening Standard* in London. Mr Agee's chances of success in the Scottish courts were diminished yesterday after the Law Society of Scotland had said that "as far as immigration law is concerned the Home Secretary carries the administrative responsibility for the United Kingdom". However, he is presenting a petition in the Court of Session in Edinburgh next week.

The Home Office also said that as far as it was concerned Mr Rees's powers of deportation covered Scotland as well as England and Wales.

Meanwhile, Mr Hosenball is to apply to the High Court next week for leave to appeal against Mr Rees's decision.

It will be argued that Mr Rees has failed to abide by the Immigration Act in furnishing sufficient details of the case against Mr Hosenball and that deportation in the Act refers to a future threat rather than past actions.

It is now known that the three members of the Home Office advisory committee closely questioned Mr Hosenball in connexion with references in a magazine article to the fight against IRA bombers. The article appeared in ...
for which Mr Hosenb...
until last July, and ...
a government com...
centre at Cheltenham ...
tronic eavesdropping.
Two paragraphs of ...
suggested that the IRA ...
using radio signals t...
bombs. If the Army ...
ture the signal t...
detonate the bombs t...
Mr Hosenball, wh...
did not write the ...
asked where that part ...
of the article had c...
and how the section ...
been written if it had ...
nated from secret so...
A lawyer from the ...
was also questioned b...
mittee on the passag...
relation to the D-Noti...
which precludes pub...
sensitive material.
Mr Duncan Camp...
wrote the article, gav...
to the committee and ...
much of the material ...
available. The map ...
article included two ...
Northern Ireland, wh...
discovered in a teleph...
tory.
Last November T...
was told that the de...
might be connected w...
ern Ireland and the ...
British agents. The ...
asked by the committ...
confirm that informat...
Mr Neil Hosenball, ...
ball's father and ...
official with the Nati...
Space Administration ...
United States, said ...
that he believed the ...
graphs were the reas...
son's deportation.

Optical and dental fees increased from April 1

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

Details of increased charges for dental and optical treatment under the National Health Service were given in the Commons yesterday by Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services. The intention to increase charges was announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer last July as part of the savings in public spending.

The new rates come into effect on April 1. The maximum charge for most courses of dental treatment will be increased from £3.50 to £5.

The maximum charge for dentures, at present £12, will vary between £20 and £30, and the charges for crowns, inlays, pinlays and gold fillings will be £10 a tooth, with a maximum for more than three teeth of £30.

Mr Ennals said it was with reluctance that it had been decided to introduce special charges for particular expensive items of treatment, such as crowns. That was the only way to keep down the ordinary maximum charge to a level that should not deter people from seeking regular treatment.

Optical charges would be raised from the present levels of £2.25 for each single vision lens and £4.25 or £5 for each bifocal lens, depending on type, to £2.90 for each single vision lens, £5.50 for each fused glass bifocal lens, and £6.15 for any other type of lens.

Economy talks: Mr James Bannerman, president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, said last night that he was arranging talks among the medical professions for suggestions on economies in medicines (our Nottingham Correspondent writes). Every year unwanted medicines worth millions of pounds were destroyed.

Union calls national bread strike

By Our Labour Staff

The Bakers' Union yesterday instructed its 56,000 members to take industrial action from Sunday week over an equal-pay dispute. Some bread will be produced if the action goes ahead, but severe disruption in supplies is inevitable.

The strike will be divided among four groups; two at a time taking action and the other two working normally, without producing extra bread. Mr Samuel Maddox, general secretary of the union, said some members wanted a total stoppage.

The dispute revolves round workers who handle so-called "morning goods", smaller items such as bread rolls. The union says four fifths of the workers, including men and women, are paid a higher rate than the rest, who are all women, and it is demanding pay rises to end the anomaly.

The union says the lower-paid workers are doing work of a broadly similar nature and, in some cases, exactly the same.

An emergency committee meeting of the union's full-time officers and executive members is scheduled for Monday.

The Federation of Bakers said yesterday that it felt that the union did not want a peaceful solution to the dispute. It regretted "the union's refusal to allow the matter to be the subject of independent assessment".

Tax building will cost £12m more

By Malcolm Brown

The costs of constructing an Inland Revenue building in Bootle, Merseyside, have multiplied more than fivefold from the original modest estimate of under £3m to nearly £15m, according to a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General, published yesterday. The Comptroller, who says the building should have been finished at the end of 1970, reports that the estimated completion date is early 1979.

In May, 1966, the Treasury approved the planning of St John's House as a computer centre at an estimated cost of £2.68m. By February, 1968, that figure had risen to £4.4m, largely because of a decision to increase the building's size. Nine months later £500,000 was put on the bill because of the high building costs in the Liverpool area.

Two years later the contractor ceased trading, and the contract was reassigned. Only four weeks after that the Inland Revenue had a change of heart about computerization, and it was eventually decided that St John's House should instead be a collection accounts office.

The Property Services Agency notified the Treasury in October, 1972, that the estimated cost had increased to £5.25m mainly, the Comptroller says, because of industrial disputes; the granting of contracts before detailed requirements were known; and high winds which restricted operation of the tower cranes.

In 1973 the agency decided that the building would have to be adapted, and a new contract, worth about £3.85m, was approved.

But fresh difficulties arose, and by August, 1974, the agency was signing a contract worth £6.3m. When he asked for an overall figure the Comptroller was told that the latest figure, at March, 1976, prices, was £14.72m.

Concern ... ship and air delay...

Continued from page 1

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Business has a poor opinion of modern education

Apprentices taught basic maths

From Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent
Newcastle upon Tyne

The great debate on education starts in Newcastle upon Tyne today, with the first of the eight regional conferences organized by the Government. But, great debate or no, the real challenge to the city's teachers is to relate the two worlds of school and work. More than a third of the 3,500 16-year-olds who left school last summer have still to find jobs.

The city's education fathers, congratulating themselves on the tenth anniversary of abolishing the 11-plus examination, find that more and more employers are using a battery of aptitude and ability tests to select the pupils they take on at 16.

When Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, spoke last week of a return to the old school certificate examination in a group of basic subjects, it struck a warm chord among many of the two thousand employers in Newcastle. What they want is a "decent" examination to measure and compare the achievements of the hundreds of applicants who are overwhelming them with requests for jobs.

Some of the city's big engineering and shipbuilding companies are introducing remedial teaching in mathematics and literacy in their training schemes.

At Swan Hunter shipyard's training centre, Mr George Forrest, a factory trainer in the plating section, is giving half of his trainees lessons for three hours a week, beginning with how to use a rule and then how to measure sixteenths of an inch. He would like to teach them thirty-seconds, but that, he thinks, is beyond them.

C. A. Parsons, the electrical and mechanical engineering company, gives its craft apprentices a month's induction course, with lessons in basic arithmetic for three or four hours a week.

Mr Frank Peacock, the training manager, summarized best for me the gap between the world of work and school which, although both sides are trying to narrow it, seems to be still as wide as the bridge over the Tyne.

"We are finding in schools too great an emphasis on the need to develop the wonder of the pupils and too little concern for accuracy", he said. "The process of getting an answer is seen to be more important than actually getting the answer right. In educational terms it probably is; on the building site, it is either right or it is wrong."

Mr Leslie Allen, of Vickers, the armaments and engineering company, runs a training school for 60 apprentices at the Elswick plant. He gives them regular tests in basic calculations needed, for example, before they can use a milling machine or a micrometer. He said: "We are not using the 25-week course to train just for lathe fodder, but we are making sure that a chap knows how to measure square footage so that he can order a carpet."

Not all schools teach both metric and imperial measurements. Philip Hutchinson, with eight good CSEs and one O level, was one of 30 trainees taken on by Bainbridge, the department store, last September. Yet it was found before he started work in "dress fabrics" that he had never learnt metric units.

Mr Malcolm Craig, Swan Hunter's further education officer, finds that his bright 11-year-old son cannot use an aerosol spray properly, because he does not know what seven inches means—the distance he has to hold the tin away from the surface he is spraying.

In the combined literacy and numeracy tests that many employers are now insisting that job applicants should sit, scores in literacy are generally far higher than in numeracy. Yet some people who would no doubt make first-class bricklayers or site workers are being rejected because their letters of application to such employers as Brims and Co, the building and civil engineers, are written on paper little better than lavatory paper or not much larger than a postage stamp.

A boy who began his letter to R. H. Patterson, one of the big car dealers: "I am wrighting (sic) to you . . ." wrote himself out of a job. Yet a boy from St Aloysius Comprehensive School who has not yet mastered the spelling of his school's name but has done a work experience course stands a 90 per cent chance of getting one of this year's 20 vacancies.

"Elder statesmen's" views, page 12

Prices call by farmers

Price changes sought by the EEC would add 50p to the weekly food bill of a British family, farmers said yesterday. They insisted that the proposed changes were inadequate to cover their extra costs (our Agricultural Correspondent writes).

The council of the National Farmers' Union took a determined stand against claims for price freezes from food processers and the consumer lobby.

Devolution questions revised to suit Tories

Continued from page 1

the Bill fails to carry party leaders should immediately seek to establish a constitutional conference. Among the backbenchers are Mr Charles Morrison and Mr David Knox. The conference would spread much wider than devolution to include Lords reform, electoral reform, and a written constitution.

Yesterday the Scottish National Party and Plaid Cymru withdrew the early-day motion in which they complained on Wednesday night of the conduct of Sir Myer Galpern, first deputy chairman of Ways and Means. Mr Donald Stewart, SNP leader, and Mr Dafydd Wigley, Plaid Cymru, agreed in the interests of the House to drop their criticism.

Our Political Correspondent writes: Although the Government has attempted to meet the demands of the official Opposition in changing the questions it is proposed should be put in the referendums, backbenchers were busily drafting new amendments yesterday.

As proposed by the Government, in the revised ballot paper, the voters in Scotland would be asked: Parliament has decided that there should be referendums in Scotland and Wales to consult the electorate on the question whether the Scotland and Wales Act should be put into effect.

The Act provides that there should be an elected Scottish assembly and executive, and that Scotland should remain part of the United Kingdom. The new assembly and executive would exercise substantial powers devolved by Parliament.

Do you want the provisions of the Act to be put into effect in Scotland? Put a cross (X) in the appropriate box. Yes. ☐ No. ☐

The change has been made to meet the objections of the Conservative Party, who maintained that the original wording was slanted to produce a "Yes" result.

The question for the Welsh referendum has also been altered to suit the wishes of the Opposition. It states: "The Act provides that there should be an elected Welsh assembly, and that Wales should remain part of the United Kingdom. The new assembly would exercise substantial powers devolved by Parliament."

Both preambles are more extensive than the Conservatives proposed.

Persuasion visit: Welsh Labour Party and Wales TUC officials will travel to Westminster on Tuesday in an effort to persuade the six Welsh Labour MPs who oppose devolution to support the guillotine motion.

The Welsh Labour Party and the Wales TUC have recently joined forces to run a campaign in favour of devolution and the delegation to Westminster will tell MPs who oppose devolution that the labour and trade union movement have worked for an elected assembly for some years

Parliamentary report, page 6
Leading article, page 13

Government is beaten on college closures

The Government was defeated, by 39 votes to 25, in the Scottish Grand Committee yesterday on a motion to take note of a consultative document relating to the closure of two teacher-training colleges, and the merger of four others.

Mr Bruce Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, was attending a Cabinet meeting when English Conservative MPs appointed to the committee to reflect the composition of the Commons, turned up in force.

Industry and education

Henry Chilver discusses how universities can help industrial regeneration in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today. Allan Rodway reviews a collection of essays on popular culture, and Ninian Smart takes a nostalgic look at Oxford after the war.

Unstreamed classes get blame for poor record

By Robert Doe of *The Times Educational Supplement*

Criticisms of the standards of mathematics, science and foreign languages taught in schools are contained in a report from government school inspectors made public today.

It was prepared as part of the debate on education called for by the Prime Minister last year. It has been produced for the first of eight regional conferences for those with an interest in education, which is being held in Newcastle today under the chairmanship of Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

In all those subjects the inspectors blame unstreamed classes for part of the low achievement. They say schools are often failing to provide sufficient challenge to the child with mathematical ability. Mixed-ability classes often mean the teachers' expectations are far too low for many children.

Much time is spent in schools on the basic skills of arithmetic. "The trouble is that the teaching is producing such disappointing results." But industry, they point out, requires recruits not only to be able to do sums but to know what sums to do and when.

Science teaching is criticized for being "too modern" and leaving out too much of the factual side of science, failing to produce enough physical scientists and for failing to relate courses to industrial processes.

The inspectors say there is "under-performance at all ages and all stages" in modern languages.

The report recognizes that many of those difficulties are due to scarcity of teachers

Mathematics, Science and Modern Languages in Maintained Schools in England; An appraisal of some key subjects by HM Inspectorate. (Department of Education and Science, Elizabeth House, York Road, London, SE1 7PH.)

More calls for return to free wage bargaining

By Our Labour Staff

Two more powerful voices were raised yesterday against a continuation of pay restraint when phase two expires in just over five months. Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the Yorkshire area of the National Union of Mineworkers, called for an immediate return to free collective bargaining.

The Technical and Supervisory Section (Tass) of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, representing 160,000 white-collar workers, voted at its executive committee meeting yesterday in favour of unfettered wage bargaining next year.

Mr Scargill said his area council was completely against the social contract continuing. It had cut wages and living standards.

Cuts in government spending represented unemployment, hardship and suffering. "Yorkshire miners will do everything in their power to ensure that the cuts are restored and that hospitals, schools and education services are developed and improved and not cut."

The Tass executive said it was imperative that the TUC should take urgent steps to carry out congress policy and restore free collective bargaining next year.

Large councils reject local income tax plan

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The introduction of local income tax to help council finances would be nothing but an expensive irrelevance, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities said yesterday.

The association, representing the main conurbations, rejects the idea of local income tax and supports the retention of the rating system in its reply to the Government on the proposals of the Layfield committe on local government finance. That is a somersault, for its submission to the Layfield committee two years ago described the rating system as "outworn and no longer acceptable to the public", and suggested that a proportion of national taxation should be assigned to local government.

The reasons for the change of heart were approved by the association in London yesterday, and have been forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Environment.

The association believes that the cost of collecting local income tax would be too high, and that it could not take effect within 10 years. It could not be independent of at least some degree of central control.

"If there was such a tax, the volume of grant would be reduced. No extra freedom would accrue to local government in its spending plans, and that remains the real area of local autonomy to be preserved."

It also says that local income tax would not provide a stable income for local authorities and that there would be a danger of "poverty traps". For all its faults, the rating system should be retained and improved.

The association says, however, that local income tax might be reconsidered if there were radical changes in local government organization as a result of the devolution debate.

The Association of District Councils, in its submission to the Layfield committee, said it believed that the rating system must be retained. It was not convinced about local income tax, but would like to see further research done.

London loses last of its 11-plus schools

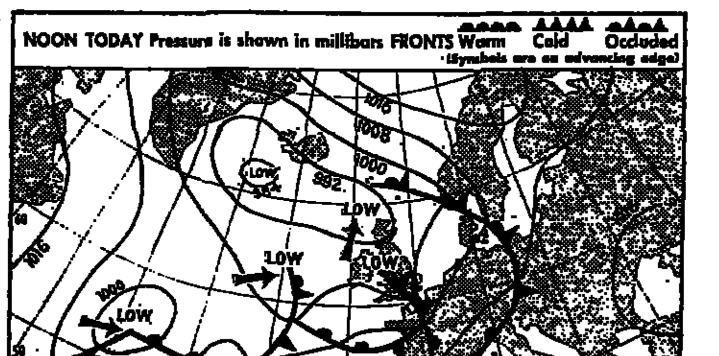
All inner-London secondary schools are to become comprehensive. Sir Ashley Bramall, leader of the Inner London Education Authority, said yesterday that the last statutory consent to end 11-plus selection had been received. He said there would be 178 secondary schools, 52 with fewer than 750 pupils, 79 with 750-1,200 pupils, and 48 with 1,200 or more pupils.

More direct lines

Direct dialling by British telephone subscribers to Bahrain and Papua New Guinea has been introduced.

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded (Symbols are on advancing edge)



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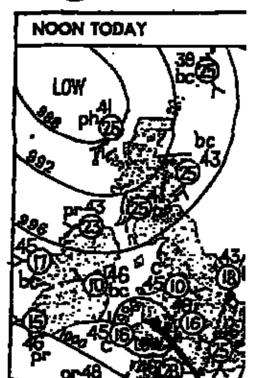

b—blue sky; bc—half clo...
cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; ...
h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; ...
th—thunderstorm; p—show...
periodical rain with snow.

Today

Sun rises: 7.9 am Sun sets: 5.21 pm
Moon rises: 6.52 am Moon sets: 6.10 pm
New moon: 3.37 am.

Lighting up: 5.51 pm to 6.37 am.

High water: London Bridge, 1.47 am, 6.9m (22.5ft); 2.13 pm, 7.1m (23.3ft). Avonmouth, 7.26 am, 13.7m (45.0ft); 7.44 pm, 13.5m (44.2ft). Dover, 11.13 am, 6.6m (21.7ft); 11.32 pm, 6.9m (22.6ft). Hull, 6.22 am, 7.3m (23.8ft); 6.29 pm, 7.5m (24.5ft). Liverpool, 11.22 am, 9.5m (31.3ft); 11.47 pm, 9.2m (30.3ft).

A deep complex depression is moving slowly to the NW of Britain and an associated trough of low pressure will move from SW across most districts.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:

London, SE, central S, SW England, Midlands, Channel Islands, Wales: Cloudy, rain, becoming brighter with showers later; wind SW, fresh or strong; max temp 9°C (48°F).

East Anglia, E, NW, central N England, Lake District: Cloudy, rain at times; wind S, moderate or fresh; max temp 7°C (45°F).

NE England, Borders: Rather cloudy, sunny intervals, rain later; wind S moderate increasing fresh later; max temp 6°C (43°F).

Isle of Man, Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow, central Highlands, Argyll, NW, SW Scotland, N Ireland: Rather cloudy, heavy showers, snow on mountains, sunny intervals; wind SW, fresh or strong; max temp 6°C (43°F).

Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland. Cloudy with rain, becoming brighter and drier, showers later: wind S, fresh; max temp 5°C (41°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Changeable, showers or longer periods of rain, temp near or a little above normal.

S North Sea, Straits ... English Channel (E): W... strong to severe gale, ... and decreasing strong ... very rough.

St George's Channel, I... Wind SW, strong to gale ... ing variable moderate ... later: sea very rough.

Yesterday

London: Temp: Max, 6 ... pm, 11°C (52°F); min, ... 6 am 6°C (43°F). Humidity ... 85 per cent. Rain, 24 hr ... .08in. Sun, 24 hr to 6 pm ... Bar, mean sea level, 6 p... millibars, falling. 1,000 millibars=29.53in.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Akrotiri	c	17	63	Copnhgn	sn	0	32	Lisbon	d	12	54	Nice	f	13	55
Algiers	f	18	64	Dublin	r	7	45	Locarno	c	6	43	Oslo	f	-6	21
Amsterdam	c	5	41	Edinburgh	c	3	37	London	r	8	46	Paris	r	10	50
Athens	s	14	57	Florence	c	5	41	Luxmbrg	fog	3	37	Reykjavik	c	4	39
Barcelona	s	15	59	Funchal	s	17	63	Madrid	s	11	52	Rome	c	12	54
Belfast	r	6	43	Geneva	c	5	41	Majorca	s	15	59	Ronldswy	r	6	43
Berlin	f	4	39	Gibraltar	s	17	63	Malaga	s	17	63	Stockhlm	sn	-4	25
Biarritz	f	15	59	Guernsey	c	9	48	Malta	f	15	59	Tel Aviv	c	17	63
Birmgham	r	7	45	Helsinki	sn	-5	23	Manchstr	r	7	45	Venice	s	8	46
Bristol	r	9	48	Innsbruck	s	4	39	Moscow	sn	-1	30	Vienna	s	7	45
Brussels	f	7	45	Istanbul	c	11	52	Munich	f	[illegible]	31	Warsaw	c	1	34
Cardiff	c	8	46	Jersey	c	9	48	Naples	c	10	50	Zurich	c	4	39
Cologne	c	6	43	L. Palmas	c	18	64								

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HOME NEWS

Anglo-Irish relations nearing lowest ebb since embassy burning

From Christopher Walker
Dublin

Anglo-Irish relations, long regarded as being among the most sensitive of diplomatic plants, are considered by many observers to be heading towards their lowest ebb since the British Embassy in Dublin was burnt down five years ago.

Evidence for the decline is to be found almost daily in newspapers on both sides of the Irish Sea and in the comments, attributable and unattributable, of official spokesmen for both governments. It has yet to affect the ordinary English citizen visiting the Republic of Ireland for business or pleasure, although in recent weeks a new range of topics has emerged on which he is likely to be engaged in argument.

Senior British officials see the continuing litigation over the alleged torture of republican internees in Northern Ireland as the prime cause of the trouble. There is no doubt that British pride has been hurt by the recent adverse decision from the European Court of Human Rights and there is a conviction that the Irish are pursuing the case vindictively.

A number of other irritants have combined to exacerbate ill feeling. They include the republic's refusal to sign the new European convention on terrorism, unease among Dublin ministers about the lack of a British initiative in Northern Ireland, a repeated assertion by Scotland Yard that Ireland is still a haven for IRA bombers, and a complex assortment of maritime disputes.

Genuinely perplexed by what they see as a new bout of nationalistic fervour against the traditional enemy, British sources see the forthcoming Irish general election as a reason why so much edge has crept into recent bilateral disagreements. "It is obviously a time when all Irish politicians feel that their manhood has to be asserted for electoral purposes", an official explained.

Overshadowing all the potentially divisive factors is the trial next month of eight members of The Special Air Service Regiment. The physical presence of men from the regiment in a Dublin court is certain to provide republicans with emotional fuel for intensifying their propaganda campaign against Britain.

On the British side there is a fear that any attempt by the Irish to pursue the charge of carrying weapons with intent to endanger life, which carries a long maximum prison sentence on conviction, would have consequences much more damaging than anything witnessed in recent years.

Against all the difficulties has to be set the fact that relations between countries are more often a dull shade of grey than the black and white in which the media prefer to paint them. Cooperation on border security and many EEC matters continues to work well.

One small chink of light has emerged with the British agreement to refer competing claims over the waters around Rockall to international arbitration.

Heavy-gang charges rejected by minister

Mr Patrick Cooney, the Irish Government's Minister for Justice, yesterday denied the existence of a "heavy gang" interrogation squad in the Irish Republic's police force.

In a detailed statement to the Dail he rejected demands for an early inquiry into brutality charges against the police.

Mr Cooney was answering a question tabled by Mr Gerald Collins, spokesman on justice for the Fianna Fail Opposition, about the increasing number of allegations of ill treatment of suspects, and took the opportunity to reply to newspaper accusations that the Garda Siochana, the republic's police force, used brutal methods.

He said a judicial investigation would be authorized only if the present system of checking charges, through the courts and internal machinery, proved inadequate.

Mr Cooney said there had been a deliberate attempt to discredit the police by propaganda, although not all complaints fell into that category. Every alleged assault that had been tested in court had failed.

A reserve policeman in the Royal Ulster Constabulary was wounded yesterday when his car was fired on by several gunmen, as he left Kinawley police station, on the Fermanagh-Cavan border.

An Irish Army patrol later challenged a group of men at Coffey's Ford, about two miles from Kinawley. There was some shooting, but no one was injured. Extra troops and police were called in. The policeman, aged 35, from Enniskillen, was detained in hospital.

The Northern Ireland Office, and the departments of education and science and health and social services are to join forces in establishing an experimental centre at Dunmurry, on the outskirts of Belfast.

The centre, expected to be operational by the end of the year, will offer improved counselling for children aged between 10 and 16 who appear before the courts on non-terrorist offences.

It will assess children who have been to court to help in deciding if they should be sent to a training school or continue a normal life with the help of a probation officer, and take a number of boys out of a co Down training school and let them return home.

Mr William Garside, head of the returned letter department at Newton Street postal sorting office, Manchester, with Christmas gifts that were not delivered because of poor packaging.

'An illusion that the whole work could be done by one man'

Judges against single-branch legal profession

By Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

Fusion of the two branches of the legal profession would lead to longer and costlier trials, a deterioration in the standards of advocacy, and a lower standard of professional ethics, the judges of the High Court have told the Royal Commission on Legal Services.

In a joint memorandum of evidence, the 70 judges from the three divisions of the High Court (Family, Chancery and Queen's Bench) put forward a spirited defence of the present division between barristers and solicitors.

They reject the often argued proposition that removing the duplication that takes place when solicitors are obliged to consult and instruct counsel would necessarily lead to a saving of time or money.

The judges suggest that under a fused system many cases would anyway have to go from the lawyers handling the case generally to lawyers specializing in advocacy, and some duplication would occur. Their main fear is that many of the functions now undertaken by barristers would be carried out in a fused system by a lawyer not really qualified or experienced enough to perform that work.

The result would be that any trial would be lengthened by the time taken up by irrelevant matter, poor presentation and "endlessly prolonged arguments, adjournments, to enable hitherto unsuspected issues to be explored, and wasted costs".

Indications over many years of experience showed that in the lower courts any cost-saving derived from having only one person handling the case from start to finish, rather than two (counsel and solicitor or his clerk) was insignificant.

"As for contested cases in the higher courts, each involves its competent preparation and presentation, the amount of work depending upon the factual and legal issues. But we believe it to be an illusion that in any but an insignificant number of cases, the whole work either could or would be done by one man."

By and large the client was charged for the complexity and length of the work involved. The fact that it was done by one, two or three lawyers did not necessarily mean that the total cost to the client was affected.

The memorandum expresses fear about the possibility of a large number of unqualified and inexperienced advocates exercising the right of audience in the higher courts.

"Whether the existing system could stand the strain of a substantially increased hearing time for cases currently dealt with by the Bar alone is questionable." At best, the judges say, the consequences for the administration of justice would be serious in terms of delay and judicial wear and tear.

"At worst, we fear delays of such an order as to produce either a complete collapse of the existing trial system or the necessity for a massive increase in the number of judges and court staff and in accommodation."

Jail and ba[...] for county council chairman

George Newman, aged[...] chairman of Stafford[...] County Council, was jaile[...] Mr Justice Jupp at Sta[...] Crown Court yesterday fo[...] months for corruption. [...] judge said Mr Newman w[...] forfeit his public office an[...] barred from serving in p[...] life for five years.

Jack Nicklin, aged 4[...] builder, and Mr Newm[...] fellow defendant, of Gorse I[...] Brereton, was jailed for [...] months.

Mr Newman, described[...] the judge as a brave[...] courageous man, for 40 [...] a leading Staffordshire p[...]cian, was found guilty o[...] charges of corruptly rece[...] a total of £3,000 and guil[...] corruptly receiving a ca[...] 1962. He was cleared [...] corruptly receiving £200, [...]ing a letter and conspirin[...] defeat the ends of p[...] justice.

Mr Nicklin, father of [...] children, was convicted o[...] charges of corruptly givin[...] Newman £2,000. He was f[...] not guilty of two charge[...] giving him £1,200.

Mr Newman, of Chads[...] Road, Rugeley, who in 1966[...] made a CBE for service[...] local government, was descr[...] by Mr John Field Evans, [...] for the prosecution, as a [...]rupt and influential counc[...] who lined his pockets whil[...] the pay of a local builder.

He said all the offe[...] involved planning applicat[...] by Mr Nicklin and his [...]pany, Economy Homes [...] between 1970 and 1973, w[...] Mr Newman was a membe[...] Staffordshire County Cou[...] and Rugeley Urban Dis[...] Council.

It was said that Mr New[...] received a cheque for £1[...] after Economy Homes had [...] a £150 land option for £42[...]. The prosecution alleged [...] Mr Newman disclosed co[...]dential information that gr[...] belt land was to be rezo[...] for housing.

Pacifist journal attacks detention of writer

The pacifist newspaper, *Peace News*, said yesterday that the detention of one of its writers under the Prevention of Terrorism Act was ludicrous. Mr James Hineson, who is unmarried and in his late twenties, was taken into custody by Liverpool police on Wednesday after arriving by the Belfast night ferry.

Mr Michael Holderness, a member of the paper's editorial collective, said: "Mr Hineson was invited to go along with members of the editorial collective to talk to people involved in peace and community work in Londonderry."

He said Mr Hineson, who lives in London, was not employed by *Peace News* but wrote regularly for it. He was a member of the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign, Mr Holderness said.

He understood that Mr Hineson was being detained under section 10 of the Act, which refers to financial support for terrorist activities. "That is ludicrous. *Peace News* is a pacifist organization and we would no more fund terrorists than the British Army."

Drugged prisoner kept in padded cell is George Ince, Home Office confirms

By Peter Godfrey

The Home Office has confirmed that a report published by *The Times* of an inmate at Gartree maximum security prison being drugged and isolated in a padded cell referred to George Ince, who is serving a 15-year sentence for taking part in a bullion robbery. It also confirmed that Mr Ince had been due to have electric shock treatment.

The Home Office said Mr Ince was recently transferred to Leicester Royal Infirmary after spending several weeks under treatment in Gartree prison hospital. It did not deny that he was given large doses of drugs at the prison.

The drugs had been said to include two daily quotas of Largactil, a tranquillizer, which can induce docile behaviour. Gartree prisoners have described Mr Ince's behaviour as "zombie-like", alleging that he was unable to recognize them.

According to the Home Office he was due to have electric shock treatment at Gartree last month, on medical advice. The treatment was postponed after representations by Mr Ince's family.

Mr Ince was jailed for his part in a £400,000 silver bullion robbery at Mountnessing, Essex, in 1972. He recently began legal action against the Essex police force for alleged negligence and wrongful prosecution over the Barn restaurant murder at Braintree in 1972. He was acquitted of the murder at a second trial. A campaign is being launched to establish mistaken identification in the bullion robbery and that Mr Ince is innocent.

According to reports from inside Gartree, Mr Ince was put into "patches", the uniform of a potential escaper, on his arrival at the prison, and then into solitary confinement. He was then transferred to a special cell, his wrists were found to be cut, and he was taken into the prison hospital, where he contracted pneumonia and later a thrombosis.

Highest-paid are worst hit by restraint policy

By Our Economics Correspondent

There has been a sharp drop in living standards among all income groups during the period of pay restraint, according to a regional cost-of-living survey published today.

The survey suggests that living standards have dropped most sharply for those at the higher end of the earnings scale, but that all groups have seen some erosion of buying power. It illustrates that by looking at eight families whom it regards as typical.

The family with the lowest earnings living in a semi-detached council house, with a black-and-white television set and a small car, needed a monthly income of about £304 at the beginning of 1977 to maintain standards. Under the pay-restraint policy their earnings are £16 a month short, a drop of 8 per cent.

At the other end of the scale, a family with a large house, 3½-litre car, telephone, golf-club membership, domestic help and a daughter at a fee-paying school, would need £2,870 gross a month, and would be £660 a month short, or down 34 per cent.

UK Regional Report (Reward Regional Surveys Ltd. Price £1).

North Sea rescue

Nine seamen were rescued yesterday when their oil rig supply boat, Monarch Service, capsized while moored alongside a North Sea drilling rig 90 miles north-east of Aberdeen. They were winched on board the rig before their vessel sank.

Council loses thousands over 'unknown' factory

By a Staff Reporter

A district council has lost several thousand pounds in unpaid rates because council officials did not know of an empty factory and nearly six acres of adjoining land.

South Cambridgeshire District Council has discovered that rates on a former seed factory at Linton were paid only up to 1967, when it was temporarily taken off the valuation list. It was never restored.

Mr James Flint, chief executive of the council, said yesterday that the council had had the power to levy a half-rate on the factory, owned by an Essex company, but "we did not know it existed until the local press told us about it".

He said there was no question of recovering the lost rates, but the council was to have the factory put back on the list quickly so that rates could be collected for the current year.

"I imagine we have lost several thousand pounds in uncollected rates and although that is a very small amount compared with the total rate revenue of the area we do not like losing anything", he said.

Bill discrepancy: Buildings with heating systems linked to those of council flats have not received a heating bill for up to five years (our Nottingham Correspondent writes).

Mr Benjamin Allsop, a Nottingham City councillor, said yesterday that £18,000 might be outstanding. He said the discrepancy came to light when he began investigating tenants' complaints about heating charges.

He discovered that a school, a probation officers' centre and branches of Barclays and the Trustee Savings banks in Hyson Green were connected to the boiler serving the flats.

Welfare fraud allegations 'ill founded'

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

The Government's investigation of 765 cases of alleged social security fraud submitted by Mr Ian Sproat, Conservative MP for Aberdeen, South, produced only eight new cases, Mr Orme, Minister for Social Security, disclosed yesterday. The effort involved yielded a tenth of the results of normal fraud work.

In most cases individuals were not identified and the allegations could not be investigated. But those that were named included a significant number who were receiving no benefit; others were receiving benefits to which they were entitled.

Mr Orme commented last night: "The exercise I have carried out has proved that much of the hysteria Mr Sproat has created is without foundation."

In one case investigated it had been alleged that a married woman was fraudulently receiving £14 a week in unemployment benefit. In fact she was receiving £18.50 a week invalidity benefit, for which she had qualified on the basis of her national insurance contributions.

Mr Sproat described Mr Orme's disclosures as "operation whitewash".

Parliamentary report, page 6

Leeds rate 'lowest'

Leeds will have the lowest domestic rate of any city, 59.7p in the pound, in the coming year, Mr Irwin Bellow, Conservative leader of the council said yesterdy. It is an increase of 1.8p.

Liquorice may put addicts 'out of sorts'

By Our Medical Corresponde[...]

Liquorice sweets — bl[...] twists, laces and all sorts—r[...] cause internal chemical chan[...] if eaten regularly, a group [...] New Zealand doctors say in [...] article in the *British Medi[...] Journal*.

They found from tests at [...] Princess Margaret Hospi[...] Christchurch, that volunte[...] who ate 4oz to 8oz liquor[...] every day for several we[...] gained weight and their ank[...] swelled. Biochemical investi[...]tions showed that they had l[...] potassium and gained sodi[...] and that the hormonal cont[...] of the amount of water in [...] body had become disturbed.

Many of the volunteers ga[...] up their liquorice within a f[...] days because of uncomforta[...] swelling, headache, or loss [...] energy, suggesting that th[...] symptoms are likely to prev[...] anyone from doing hims[...] serious harm. But the rep[...] suggests that doctors shou[...] give a warning against the e[...]ing of liquorice by patients w[...] raised blood pressure or he[...] disease.

Care for girl who took baby

A girl, aged 15, who took [...] baby girl from her pram l[...] month after reading a bo[...] about a girl who snatched [...] child was put into care [...] Wimbledon Juvenile Co[...] London, yesterday.

The girl left the child at [...] hospital nine hours after taki[...] her, after watching a televisi[...] item on the police search. La[...] she went to Wimbledon pol[...] station with her father.

Vaccination gai[...] emphasized

A committee representi[...] family doctors yesterday urg[...] parents to continue to ha[...] children vaccinated agai[...] whooping cough.

The General Medical Servic[...] Committee said the gains fro[...] vaccination greatly outweigh[...] the risk of brain damage. If t[...] trend towards non-vaccinati[...] continued there might be [...] serious epidemic.

MP's question after judge's ban on trousers

Mr Gwilym Roberts, Labour MP for Cannock, tabled a Commons question yesterday to Mr Silkin, QC, the Attorney General, to ask what criteria the Lord Chancellor uses when advising the Queen on the appointment of judges.

The question arose after the decision on Wednesday of Judge Anwyl-Davies to bar Miss Gisèle Albertine, a reporter, from Knightsbridge Crown Court, London, because she was wearing trousers. The judge said: "The dignity of the administration of justice is absolutely essential".

Mr Roberts said: "It is a ridiculous decision and emphasizes yet again how out of touch many of the judges are, not only with the man in the street, but even with what is now common practice on the benches". His wife often wore a trouser suit on the bench.

Mrs Maureen Colquhoun, Labour MP for Northampton, North, said: "This is quite outrageous. Women in the House of Commons wear their trousers when it is cold."

Health Services Board loses its chairman

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Mr Ralph Gibson, QC, chaired the first meeting yesterday of the Health Services Board, which will be responsible for phasing out private beds from National Health Service hospitals and controlling development of facilities for private practice, with the knowledge that it would also be his last as chairman.

His appointment as a High Court judge was also announced yesterday and although the medical profession, during debate on the Health Services Bill, suggested that a judge should chair the board, that was rejected.

Finding a chairman for the board who would satisfy professional and trade union interests proved a difficult task after the Bill became law, and its work now appears likely to be further delayed.

At its meeting yesterday, with one member, Dr Derek Stevenson, former secretary of the British Medical Association, absent in Australia, the board decided that it would meet about once a fortnight and its quorum should be three: one doctor, one unionist and the chairman. If there was deadlock on a recommendation, it was agreed the chairman should have the casting vote.

Before taking a decision on asking for extra time to consider the phasing out of more pay beds, the board decided to study proposals by the ninety area health authorities for changing the use of the first thousand beds as already listed in a schedule to the Act.

Test-pitch saboteur freed

Peter Chappell, a Test match saboteur, left Pentonville prison, London, yesterday, to a noisy and emotional welcome from his family and friends from the East End of London, including George Davis, the man for whom he campaigned.

He said: "All I did was dig up a cricket pitch." Much of his time in jail, when not cleaning landings or putting screws into wood, was spent reading. He said that had given him a new insight into life.

He plans no further demonstrations as Mr Davis awaits the result of the investigation by Det Chief Supt Jack Moulder, of Hertfordshire CID.

He served 13 months of an 18-month term for wrecking the Headingley Test wicket in August, 1975, and other incidents in the "Free George Davis" campaign.

Mr Davis was freed last May by the Home Secretary after serving just over a year of a 17-year-term on an armed robbery charge.

Water charges reform delayed

Equalization of water charges in England and Wales will not come into effect this year, Mr Howell, Minister of State for the Environment, told a Commons committee yesterday.

He blamed the slow progress of the Water Charges Equalization Bill through Parliament. The Government much regretted the consequences for Wales, Devon, Cornwall, Northumberland and Durham, which stand to gain under the Bill.

Slater case call to bench

The Department of Trade has asked Guildhall magistrates, in the City of London, to detail their reasons for dismissing 15 summonses against Mr James Slater, the financier.

A decision on whether to appeal would be taken after the magistrates' stated case had been studied by the department's lawyers, an official said yesterday.

On February 3 the magistrates acquitted Mr Slater on 15 counts involving £4,073,477 lent by the Slater, Walker merchant bank for the purchase of Slater, Walker shares. The summonses alleged the loans contravened section 54 of the Companies Act.

The Department of Trade said the magistrates were being asked to state a case because, in acquitting Mr Slater, they had not said very much

Talks fail to end dispute at Windscale nuclear plant

By Our Labour Staff

A special meeting yesterday of the joint industrial council of British Nuclear Fuels failed to reach a settlement of the three-week-old strike affecting employees at the company's Windscale nuclear works in Cumbria.

The unofficial action began last month when 30 changing room attendants, who issue protective clothing, walked out in support of a demand to double the 70p a week bonus for working near "active" areas.

As a result, a thousand workers who enter "active" zones were laid off without pay and they went on strike in protest. Nearly three thousand non-staff workers who were seeking pay improvements also went on strike.

The government-owned British Nuclear Fuels has closed the reactors and the reprocessing plant at Windscale, and is losing £14,000 a day in sales to the Central Electricity Generating Board for supplying the national grid. British Nuclear Fuels said yesterday: "There is no threat to electricity supplies to the country unless the dispute is very protracted."

Accounts delay hindered collecting of fines

By Our Legal Correspondent

Accounting arrangements for the collection of fines in magistrates' courts are criticized by Mr D. O. Henley, the Comptroller and Auditor General, in a report published yesterday.

Test examinations made by his staff showed examples of a lack of competitive tendering for the purchase of eqipment, the installation of inadequate equipment, weaknesses in systems and delays in rectifying them, and differing systems operated by courts using accounting machines.

In one court, delays and difficulties in installation had caused additional expenditure, the employment of extra staff and overtime working. At one stage fines of more than £730,000 were outstanding but the figure has since been reduced.

The report shows that at March 31, 1976, nearly £18m in fines was outstanding in the magistrates' courts of England and Wales (other than those in Inner London), but all of that was not then due for payment. The Home Office has estimated that only 3 per cent of total fines imposed were not collected eventually.

Inquiry into fire[...] bomb leaflets

The Students' Guild at U[...]versity College, Aberystwy[...] began an inquiry yesterday i[...] the use of the guild's print[...] equipment by a student to p[...]duce leaflets describing how [...] make fire-bombs.

The leaflets were confiscat[...] but later returned, because [...] was thought that they would [...] regarded as a joke. The pre[...]dent of the guild said he und[...]stood that the leaflets had be[...] destroyed.

Anti-vandal film uses 'rail sports' image

By Craig Seton

A film showing a lunatic school sports day held on a busy railway line is to be part of British Rail's campaign to reduce deaths and injuries caused by damage to railway property by children.

The Finishing Line, aptly described by British Rail as a fantasy film, was launched in London yesterday. It departs from the standard form of railway safety campaign and after successful "tests" it will be offered for use in schools before Easter.

Last year 33,000 crimes of vandalism were committed on the railways, double the 1966 figure, and 16 children died. More than 30 drivers, 28 guards and nearly 250 passengers were injured by stones thrown. Vandalism is thought to cost British Rail between £2m and £4m a year.

Mr John Krish, the director, said it was not a horror film but was about the "sanctity of life". He had used an allegorical form because "children have a highly developed sense of drama and an underdeveloped sense of danger".

The film portrays a fantasy sports day, seen through the eyes of a day-dreaming child. The games include breaking down fences to cross the busy line, a race across the tracks in front of a speeding train and a walking race through a tunnel. In each case many competitors are left killed or badly injured. A "hit the train" stone-throwing contest leaves passengers and a driver with bloodied faces.

British Rail believes the film will have its biggest impact among children aged between eight and 12. Executives are enthusiastic about favourable responses from parents, teachers and children at six schools in Hertfordshire who were shown the film.

Council to make 28 senior staff redundant

The Conservative-controlled Medway Borough Council in Kent intends to make three directors and 25 other senior officers redundant in an attempt to cut the wage bill by £180,000, it was announced yesterday.

The three directors are Mr William Cook, planning and architectural services, Mr Raymond Squires, finance and Mr Terence Barley, environmental services.

Doctors' group seeks Acas aid

The Junior Hospital Doctors' Association and the Hospital Consultants' and Specialists' Association have taken their claim for negotiation rights, held solely by the British Medical Association, to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) (our Health Services Correspondent writes).

Man said to have paid wife for intercourse

Mrs Doris May, aged 46, was granted a decree nisi in the Family Division of the High Court yesterday against her husband, who was described as obsessed with religion and said to have become dictatorial and domineering after joining the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Mr Justice Evans accepted that Mr Albert George May, aged 51, had paid his wife for intercourse, £5 once a week, the husband had said. That was because Mr May had kept his wife short of money, the judge said.

There had been "frenzied, bizarre and alarming conduct by the husband, the judge added. He had danced unclothed about the house and left it one night, stark naked, quoting Scripture.

The judge granted a decree nisi to Mrs May of Alton Close, Sudbury, Suffolk, holding that her marriage to Mr May, of West Street, Erith, London, had broken down and she could not reasonably be expected to live with him. Mr May had denied breakdown and did not ask for divorce.

The judge said the wife's case was that three years after the wedding her husband, previously an atheist, became a Jehovah's Witness and the[...] after became domineering a[...] dictatorial.

He started to forbid her go[...] to the cinema, or to celebr[...] Christmas or birthdays and p[...]sued his religious interes[...] going around preaching to t[...] exclusion of his business as[...] sewing-machine repairer. The[...] home in Abbey Wood, Londo[...] had to be sold to pay the[...] debts.

Mrs May, herself formerly [...] member of the Plymouth Bret[...]ren, had wanted to go to t[...] cinema and enjoy the ordina[...] occasions of life, and found h[...] views irksome.

...ERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

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British airways ANNOUNCE

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...19 Friday, February 18, 1977

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Announce Reporter

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... deals to the United ...where experts predict ...omy is about to take ... also excellent value. ... of the packages and ...are given in a book-...ish Airways and the ... Traveller", which ...e in every executive's ... For the period May ...er, these include: ...: Return flight and ...ghts at Tokyo's New ...otel costs from £460. ...D STATES: Return flight to Chicago and ten nights at the Conrad Hilton Hotel costs from £405. There are also packages to Detroit and New York.

Others are available to Hong Kong, Bangkok, Tel Aviv, Malta and cities all over Europe.

Missions

Apart from sales expeditions, the packages are also ideal for people who wish to attend trade fairs or conferences abroad.

The booklet, "British Airways and the Business Traveller", contains other invaluable travel information for businessmen and their companies

This includes advice on arranging conferences around the world.

It also gives details of "Thinkaway" packages for executives who want to examine complex company problems without disturbance, and Study Tours for fact-*finding missions overseas.*

Reward

British Airways "Skyhigh Awards" incentive scheme which can be used to encourage sales and profits and to reward outstanding achievements.

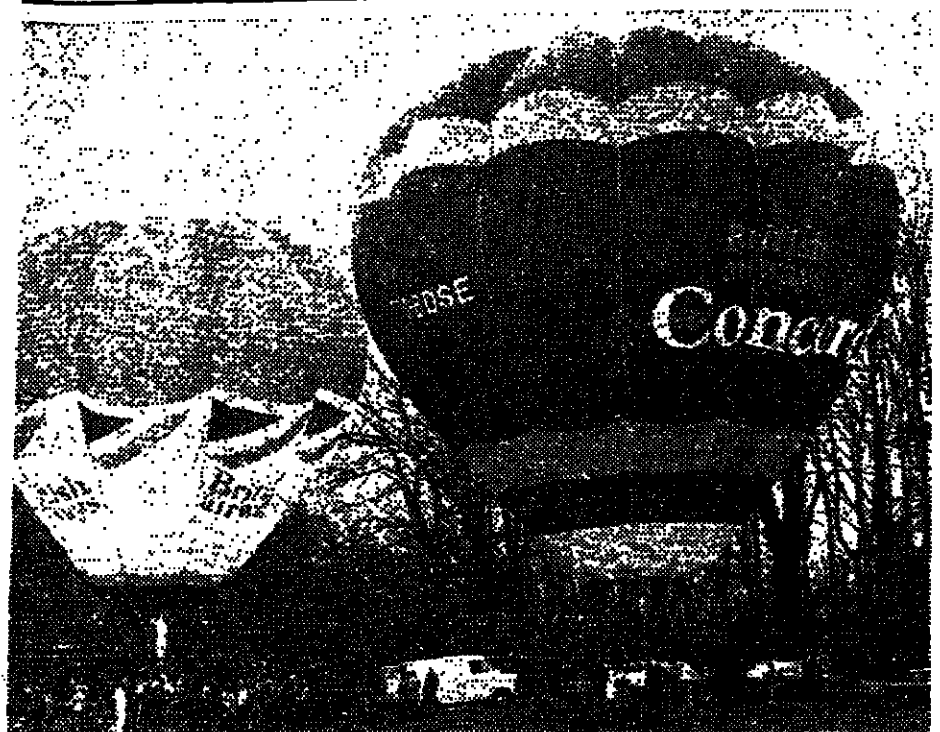
"British Airways and the Business Traveller" can be obtained from British Airways shops, travel agents or by writing to British Airways Business Travel (Ref. C), 18, Crimscott Street, London, SE1 5TS. For businessmen who already have a copy, a supplement of prices from April will be available soon.

British audio equipment on show in Tokyo

Picture by courtesy of B.O.T.B.

...ing to Georgia

...A on your mind? Then the latest British Airways Transat... ...ink-Up is the answer. Atlanta, Georgia, can now be ... daily from London Heathrow. Link-Up provides a smooth ...dy British Airways flight to Boston where a Delta Airlines ...iting to take you on to Atlanta. Other US cities covered by ... Link-Up arrangements are Houston, Tampa, New ..., Dallas and San Francisco.



...OESN'T look like Concorde. It doesn't fly as fast as Concorde. But it is called ...corde. This balloon, a descendant of the earliest attempts at manned flight, is ...ed by several British Airways pilots – who fly it for fun as a break from flying ...e of the world's latest aircraft.

Massive cuts in fares to Europe

FLY THE FLAG on a Poundstretcher to Europe at well under half the normal fare – that's British Airways new bonus for travellers. From April 1, fares to Italy, Greece, Turkey, Yugoslavia and Cyprus have been slashed.

Travellers qualify for the new cheap fares as long as they book and pay for their flight at least a month in advance for a minimum stay of two weeks — one week only in Greece — and a maximum of three months. It has all been made possible by new APEX — Advance Purchase Excursion — fares introduced by British Airways who pioneered this type of fare to the Caribbean in the early 1960s.

The new low fares on scheduled British Airways flights give a tremendous cash saving to the holidaymaker who wants to go it alone. These are just a few examples of the new cheaper fares which will be applicable from April, with the normal scheduled fares in brackets, all fares from London. Rome £77.50 (£211) a saving of 63 per cent; Venice £72.50 (£181) 60%; Belgrade £103.50 (£218) 53%; Athens £85 (£292) 71%; Corfu £83 (£262) 69%; Istanbul £86 (£296) 71%; and Cyprus £132.50 (£304) 66%.

APEX fares are still available to Malta from £69 and to Gibraltar for £77 off-peak and £88 in July, August and September.

In Gibraltar, travellers must stay between six days and one month.

The fares quoted to Malta, Gibraltar, Cyprus and Yugoslavia are still subject to Government approval.

Fares on scheduled flights to Spain and Portugal have also been cut. To qualify passengers have to travel in groups of at least three, which can include a child, and stay for any number of whole weeks between one and seven.

The fares to Palma start at £50.50, and the other destinations are Oporto, Lisbon, Faro, and Alicante, Valencia and Malaga.

Instant Purchase fares are still available to Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam at substantial savings.

They can be bought on the same day as travel or the day before — for Paris after 1400, for Brussels after 1900 and for Amsterdam after 2100.

There are also other Poundstretcher fares offering savings to most points in Europe for stays between six days and one month.

Back to Beirut

BEIRUT is back on the British Airways destination board. A weekly non-stop VC10 flight to the Lebanese capital has been reintroduced from London Heathrow.

The Tuesday flight departs Heathrow at 0900 arriving in Beirut at 1530 local time. The return, which is also non-stop, leaves Tuesday at 1645 arriving at Heathrow at 1940.

Concorde heads for Texas

A PLAN has been proposed which would allow Concorde to fly across America between Washington and Dallas/Fort Worth.

The agreement between British Airways and Braniff Airlines — which is subject to U.S. Government approval — will mean that Concorde would operate direct between London and Texas.

After flying supersonically to Washington, it would be leased by Braniff for a return flight below the speed of sound to Texas.

Cartoon by Ross

This is your airline speaking

TUNE IN to Flight Watch, a British Airways and London Broadcasting production aimed at giving travellers up-to-the-minute flight news.

Every morning from 6.30 to 8.45 Flight Watch gives LBC listeners half-hourly information on that day's British Airways flights.

Broadcasting from the British Airways studio at West London Terminal, the bulletins go out on 261 metres Medium Wave and 97.3 VHF.

Give your family a flying visit

VAST NUMBERS of Britons have relatives and friends in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United States and South Africa . . . and the best way to visit them is to fly the flag with the reassuring "home from home" service of British Airways.

Flying to those countries is frequently cheaper than most people think.

For example, while everything else seems to be rising in price, British Airways now offers cheaper than ever scheduled fares to Australia. Up to £79.50 has been cut off current fares and a return flight to Perth, for example, is available for as little as £425.

So it's a good time to start planning that long promised reunion with friends and relatives living Down under. British Airways is the only airline flying from London to all four major Australian centres — Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth — every flight by a 747.

Details of the fares available are in the story below.

Fares to New Zealand start at £530.50 return for a stay of between three weeks and six months. There is no advance booking requirement.

North America

If your destination is the USA or Canada then British Airways will get you there at the right price.

Overseas Air Travel (ATOL No. 038AC), flies Advance Booking Charters from Heathrow, Manchester and Glasgow.

London to New York from £122 return. Other flights go to Los Angeles, Chicago, Toronto and Vancouver.

The price is fixed from the day the full amount is paid, and from then on there will be no surcharges.

Flights have to be booked 50 days in advance and OAT offer an easy payment instalment plan plus in-flight complimentary bar facilities.

South Africa

For those planning to go to South Africa APEX comes to the financial rescue offering a £219.50 return flight.

There are daily British Airways flights to South Africa with evening departures making it easier to reach London from the regions.

Clubs smooth the way

THE reunion clubs formed by British Airways to take the fuss and worry out of flying to Australia, Canada and the USA are an outstanding success.

More than 40,000 people planning to visit friends and relatives overseas have joined. The founder membership fee of £1 will end on April 1, and the fee will then be £2.

The Australian, Canadian and American Reunion Clubs are open to all UK residents with friends or relatives living in those three countries.

Benefits

They offer tremendous benefits:

- Up to date information on the cheapest approved fares.
- A special savings plan designed to help old and young – You can even fly now and pay later.
- Quarterly club magazine.
- Emergency travel insurance.
- Special rates for Godfrey Davis car hire to Heathrow.

Further details can be obtained from British Airways Travel shops or leading travel agents.

Poundstretchers are best way to Australia

These are the Poundstretcher fares available to Australia:

APEX (Advance Purchase Excursion). This offers scheduled flights up to £79.50 cheaper than the present cheapest fare. Prices range from £425 return to Perth, £444 to Brisbane, and £450 to Sydney and Melbourne. They allow a maximum stay of nine months and a minimum stay of 21 days. Available from April 1, bookings must be made 90 days in advance, but a special dispensation has been allowed for passengers booking in February to travel in April or May.

EXCURSION FARES. These fares — from £525 — are for the traveller who wants more flexibility as there are no advance purchase requirements and return flight dates can be altered.

ONE-WAY FARES. From £370 to £385 depending on destination. These can be used by travellers staying less than three weeks or more than nine months.

A special Australian Poundstretcher leaflet is available.

For reservations or further details, see your travel agent or British Airways shop

PARLIAMENT, February 17, 1977

Letters show no case for alleging huge social security fraud

House of Commons

Mr James Lamond (Oldham, East, Lab) asked the Secretary of State for Social Services for a statement on current measures being taken by the Government to deal with social security fraud; and whether he had investigated allegations of widespread fraud and abuse made in letters that have been submitted to him.

Mr Stanley Orme, *Minister for Social Security*, in a written reply, said—In statements to the press on July 29 and September 21 last year I stressed the Government's determination to tackle the problem of social security fraud and abuse. I welcome the opportunity to make a progress report about the measures my department has been taking in close cooperation with the Department of Employment.

In the longer term it is of overriding importance that we improve our means of preventing fraud. But it is clearly an immediate and continuing task to detect and prosecute the fraud which does take place.

The number of prosecutions doubled over five years—from 7,700 in 1970 to 15,400 in 1975. Over the past year they increased even more sharply—by about 25 per cent to over 19,000. This is a considerable achievement by the staff of both departments, and it has been done without any lowering of standards: we still have a 98 per cent conviction rate.

As well as bringing this much larger number of cases to Court, we are actively engaged on some 40 specific studies into ways of improving our defences against fraud and abuse.

In assessing the results of these studies it will be necessary to take account of current limitations on civil service staff numbers; and we must ensure that honest, and sometimes vulnerable, claimants are treated in a humane and civilized way.

The social security system is now concerned with paying over £10,000m annually to an average of 13 million people a week of whom at least 60 per cent are retirement pensioners. We process some 22 million fresh claims each year.

These figures indicate the scale and the nature of the enormous enterprise we are engaged in, and they should serve to put this problem in perspective.

But we are giving high priority to the completion of the first phase of these studies by September this year, and we shall implement measures arising from them as quickly as we can.

In particular we shall pursue every possibility of dealing more effectively with collusive employers who, for their own financial advantage, help claimants to social security benefits to work "on the side". Our two departments are very ready to examine any evidence that can be provided of collusion by employers, and to take firm action against it.

But I do not wish to lay the main stress on these efforts to deal with detected fraud. Prevention is even more important, and we are concentrating on using the knowledge gained from successful prosecutions to stop similar frauds happening in future.

A special review of criminal techniques was completed in December and the knowledge gained was used to assemble a package of material which has been distributed to all local offices to encourage staff to have a greater awareness and understanding of possibilities of fraud.

In the light of the most recent evidence about criminal methods, it gives local office staff guidance about suspicious features in an application for a National Insurance number, or in a first claim to benefit; about methods of interviewing claimants or checking statements which are made; about effective ways of following up claims; and about dealing with applications for the replacement of allegedly lost order-books or giro-cheques.

Managers in all offices have been asked to discuss this material, together with any specific examples from their own offices' work, with their staff to make sure that the anti-fraud safeguards in our procedures are understood and properly applied.

We are also reviewing some of our key procedures, including those for registering people for insurance, for visiting claimants in their homes, and for issuing payments to beneficiaries.

My department investigates all letters in which precise allegations of fraud are made. In recent weeks we have been dealing with a large number submitted by Mr Iain Sproat (Aberdeen, South, C), who was reported last July as saying that at least 20 per cent of claims are fraudulent and that about 50 per cent of people claiming unemployment benefit are not unemployed at all.

I challenged him to produce the evidence for this, and by the end of last month Mr Sproat had sent me 765 letters making various accusations about alleged swindlers and scroungers.

However, many of these were of a generalized or unspecific nature, and since Mr Sproat had obliterated the names and addresses of the writers of all the letters it was only possible to follow up 295 of the letters which made allegations against 465 named individuals. All these cases were referred to our local offices for detailed investigation.

By the end of January, 196 of these investigations had been completed. In 24 there was no trace of the person named ever having been a claimant. In another 135 no reason to suspect fraud was found. A further 20 were inconclusive and could not be pursued.

Fraud was positively established in only 17 cases, and nine of these were already being investigated by the local office before Mr Sproat wrote.

Thus out of the 196 cases so far investigated only eight new cases of fraud have come to light. To identify these has required the diversion of some 200 man-days of effort by our specialist fraud investigators; in the normal course we would expect this amount of effort, directed at cases where there was suspicion of fraud, to yield a return some 10 times higher in terms of cases of fraud uncovered.

This is a measure of the small value of the evidence Mr Sproat has provided.

I have made it clear that we are always ready to investigate evidence of fraud; and we shall continue to look into the remaining cases sent to me by Mr Sproat where identified claimants have been named. But we cannot follow up allegations which lack specific details.

Investigation of cases so far has disclosed no possible justification for his sweeping assertions about the prevalence of fraud, and I condemn such assertions unreservedly for the harm they do to the interests of genuine claimants.

EEC direct elections pledge renewed

House of Lords

Britain, like other member states of the European Community, was committed to the target date of May/June, 1978, for direct elections to the European Parliament and would do its best to meet that target, Lord Goronwy-Roberts, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said when opening a debate on the EEC.

The Government intended to introduce a Bill in good time. Direct elections would play an important part in making the Community a more democratic organism, and countering the trend to excessive bureaucracy.

The way the Community lived and worked was continually affected by the constant interplay between the national and collective interests of member states and between different institutions of the Community which particularly embodied and represented those interests.

This being so (he went on) the future political development of Europe is a minefield for the prophet.

Many approached Britain's membership of the Community with some reservations on the economic side. But the political arguments for welding the nations of Europe together were historic arguments over which there should be no such reservations.

When we criticize (he said) the way in which the Community is moving and make much of the inevitable tensions and disagreements that arise in this revolutionary move forward in terms of international cooperation, let us remember the priceless boon of at last resolving the age-old hostilities that bedevilled the politics of Europe for two, three, and more centuries in the past.

If the future looks at times somewhat gloomy our hopes are clear and so are our intentions. In the short term and under our presidency we must give priority to economic recovery and particularly to tackling the evil of unemployment.

In the longer perspective we must build on what has already been achieved in the way of European cooperation and integration, always seeking to reconcile what is desirable with what is acceptable and possible.

Lady Tweedsmuir of Belhelvie (C) said Britain should be sure that they were not holding up their partners in the Community through publishing their direct elections Bill too late for the Boundary Commission to do its work in time to meet the target date. Disillusionment among the partners would be profound and Britain's influence in other spheres of the Community would wane.

Lady Elles (C), for the Opposition, said it was a great admission of defeat and lack of political will for the Government to refuse to devalue the green pound when Denmark and Ireland had managed to do so. The Government had not taken this decision for short-term party political gains.

Lord Banks (L) said there was reluctance by the Government to talk about the future shape of the Community. For him the future light was the vision, however distant, of European political and economic union.

Lord Bruce of Donington (Lab) said that by January 1, 1978, Britain was required to have a further upward adjustment of food prices. Unless they were careful an extra 4 or 5 per cent would be added to the inflationary spiral they were desperately trying to reduce. They should concentrate a little more on practicality and a little less on distant horizons.

Lord Gladwyn (L) said the only way to get legislation through on direct elections was to adopt some form of proportional representation.

The debate concluded.

Attacks on high off-peak electricity tariffs

Because off-peak electricity tariffs were so high thousands of night storage heaters had been got rid of by disappointed consumers, Lord Ferrier (C) said when opening a debate on the subject.

People felt they had been conned over this form of space heating. There must be a reduction in the night storage rate. Confidence in electricity as an aid to the way of life must be restored. The use of night storage heaters must be restimulated.

Lord Winstanley (L) said evidence was accumulating that it had become uneconomic for the consumer to use night storage heaters, in spite of the differential rate, because of the running costs. That indicated a possible need for research into improved design and method of operation.

Lady Hornsby-Smith (C) said that gains from capital expenditure in storage heaters and cost advantages were steadily being eroded by increased charges. It would encourage people to revert to loading peak times with non-storage equipment, because they did not feel they were getting a square deal.

Lady Phillips (Lab) said the confidence of consumers had been shaken.

Lord Strabolgi, *Captain, Yeomen of the Guard*, said the boards expected consumers to save up to 10 per cent of their annual bill by transferring to the optional white meter tariff.

The boards did not discriminate against off-peak users nor was it their intention to do so in future. Off-peak rates would continue to be very much lower than ordinary rates.

They would be kept as low as possible consistent with covering the cost of supplying the electricity to the consumers concerned.

House adjourned, 8.8 pm.

Devolution Bill guillotine: Mr Foot dismisses claims motion will be l[...]

Mr Michael Foot, *Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons* (Ebbw Vale, Lab), in announcing the business for next week said there would be consideration on Tuesday of a timetable motion (guillotine) on the Scotland and Wales Bill. (Conservative protests and Labour laughter.)

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, *Leader of the Opposition* (Barnet, Finchley, C)—This is the most discreditable and disgraceful—(Labour laughter)—use of the guillotine we have yet seen in this House. (Renewed laughter.)

The Bill raises constitutional matters which have not been discussed in this House for 50 years. This Bill is really three Bills—the Scotland Bill, the Wales Bill and the referendum Bill—and he is attempting, in one guillotine, to suppress discussion of matters of supreme importance to everyone in the United Kingdom. (Conservative cheers.)

Does he not agree he will be thoroughly debasing the standard and standing of Parliament when he goes to the people of Scotland and Wales to consult them on a referendum after having prevented their elected representatives from discussing many questions in the Bill? (Conservative cheers and Labour protests.)

Will he not reconsider this motion, bearing in mind also that one third of the discussion time has so far been taken up by members of the official Opposition and therefore he is gagging his own people as much as MPs anywhere else in the House? (Labour laughter.)

Mr Foot—I detected a note of criticism in some of her remarks. (Labour laughter.) Under our normal procedures the best time to discuss this would be next Tuesday.

Sir John Eden (Bournemouth, West, C)—Will the debate on Tuesday last the full day until 10 pm or will Mr Foot curtail that as well?

Mr Foot—The debate will last for three hours, as it has done on normal occasions.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab)—In the event of the Government not actually getting its guillotine motion—(Conservative cheers)—would he and the Government consider that the best way to deal with this situation would be for the House then to decide to go away for about three weeks and have the referendum and allow the people to take the decision on the matter—not a final decision; I accept the Government's view on that—and then to come back to the House?

If the people then want it, it is quite clear that the passage of the Bill will be much smoother than up to now.

Mr Foot—I do not think the right course for the House is to discuss these hypothetical possibilities now but to discuss them on Tuesday. We have consulted the people of Wales and Scotland on the introduction of this measure, and I hope all MPs will take that into account.

Mr Jo Grimond (Orkney and Shetland, L)—Would he consider an amendment under the standing orders to allow a longer debate than three hours because it has an unusual feature in that after this Bill has been committed an important constitutional point was raised, the referendum, and we have yet to see the Government's precise proposals for it.

Mr Foot—The Government have arranged matters so that there will be full time to discuss all these questions. In the debates we have had over the past two days, the Government's proposals and the main proposed principle about the referendum was accepted by a large majority.

Mr Leopold Abse (Pontypool, Lab)—May I suggest he reconsiders the guillotine?

"No one can say he has the full consent of Parliament and at the same time produce a guillotine. No one can say that unless he emasculates the English language just as the Government propose to emasculate the British constitution." Those are the words of Mr Foot in Opposition when the European Communities Bill was before the House.

Has he no explanation to make to the House for this appalling volte face?

Mr Foot—I will be happy to debate with him and any other MPs both what I said at the time of the Common Market discussions and other matters, but the appropriate time to do it is next Tuesday.

Mr George Reid (Stirlingshire East, and Clackmannan, Scot Nat)—Will Mr Foot accept the congratulations of the Scottish National Party? (Conservative and some Labour laughter.)

Mr John Mendelson (Penistone, Lab)—See where your friends are now?

Mr Maurice Macmillan (Farnham, C)—Many MPs in all parts of the House would, particularly after his announcement, feel that he should have included in next week's business a debate on a motion which has been tabled on the ruling by the Chairman of Ways and Means (Mr Oscar Murton, Poole, C) by me and a wide range of other MPs covering a wide political spectrum.

[The motion reads: "That in the opinion of this House, the ruling given by the Chairman of Ways and Means on February 10 in selecting for debate in committee of the whole House on the Scotland Wales Bill the procedure motion, new clause 40 and amendment 679 (both on the referendum), all in the name of the Leader of the House, ought not to be cited or drawn into precedent on any future occasion."]

Can he give some idea of when it will be debated and will he accept as evidence the first six names for the case that he should reconsider altering the rules of the House and give more time to debate the guillotine motion?

[The first six signatories of the motion are: Mr Macmillan, Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, Mr Enoch Powell (UUUC), Mr Reginald Prentice (Lab), Miss Harvie Anderson (C) and Mr John Mendelson (Lab).]

Mr Foot—I do not think it affects the guillotine motion. I entirely agree that the matter Mr Macmillan has raised in his motion should and must be discussed in the House. It should be done at a fairly early date. I cannot say that we should do it next week, but I promise that we shall take it early.

Mr Eric Ogden (Liverpool, West Derby, Lab)—Will Mr Foot not worry too much about differing points of view as to whose head will roll when the guillotine falls. This should be decided by votes as well as voices.

Mr Foot—It will be decided by votes.

Mr Francis Pym, *chief Opposition spokesman on devolution* (Cambridgeshire, C)—It is entirely within the Government's discretion whether we have a whole day for a timetable motion. In all the circumstances, it would be appropriate to give a whole day if Mr Foot must bring in this motion with which I passionately disagree.

Will he put on the order paper all the details of the timetable he has in mind so that MPs can see precisely what the House will be faced with, clause by clause. That is necessary for the House to come to a decision on this parliamentary monstrosity of a proposal.

Mr Foot—Mr Pym is returning to some of the questions for the debate. He refers to what we are bringing as a monstrosity. That is a question for debate and he will not expect me to agree.

As for extending the period of debate, what we are proposing is in full accord with what happened before. That is the best way to proceed.

There will be a motion on the order paper which will go down today. It will be full enough for the House to judge what time is being made available.

The House will be in possession of all the facts to enable it to come to a proper decision.

Mr Neil Kinnock (Bedwellty, Lab)—Will Mr Foot reconsider his answer to Mr Heffer and not dismiss the possibility of an immediate, early, referendum as a hypothetical possibility because there is no possibility more likely to be hypothetical than Mr Foot getting his guillotine next Tuesday.

Mr Foot—All these questions are for debate. The proposal made by Mr Heffer and supported by Mr Kinnock does not solve the situation. He has been opposed to the proposal for devolution to Wales, but in every assembly in Wales where he has debated it he has lost, and he may lose again.

Mr Douglas Henderson (East Aberdeenshire, Scot Nat)—In the event of the guillotine motion failing, will the Government consider this as an issue of confidence and resign, so that the Scottish people can pass judgment on them?

Mr Foot—None of these outrageous hypotheses is to be discussed now. (Laughter.)

Mr Eric Moonman (Basildon, Lab)—Is he satisfied he is protecting the interests of the backbenchers when he introduces this guillotine with a relatively short amount of time for it?

Mr Foot—What we have proposed is proper. We are giving an opportunity for the House to decide on our proposals as to how we should proceed with the Bill.

Sir David Renton (Huntingdonshire, C)—On the time for the timetable motion, would he bear in mind the exceptional importance of it—it has tremendous implications—and the conflicting views about it on both sides of the House, and the need for adequate time to be given during the debate for considering the alternatives to this guillotine?

Mr Foot—There have been many timetable motions that have been dealt with on Bills of great importance in three hours. There have been several such timetable motions introduced by the Conservative Party that have dealt with important questions. It is perfectly possible for the House to come to a reasonable decision in a debate in three hours.

Mr George Cunningham (Islington, South and Finsbury, Lab)—In a three-hour period there will not be time for more than eight or nine backbench speeches at best. What is his reason other than precedent for denying a second half of the day for this motion?

Mr Foot—We have important business to transact. (Cries of "Rubbish".) There is a motion on textiles. We have to provide time to discuss measures, proposals and regulations that come from Brussels.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind (Edinburgh, Pentlands, C)—Why is he stubbornly refusing demands from both sides for an extension from three hours? He is guaranteeing he will get no support for this motion from these benches.

Mr Foot—He will have plenty of time during the debate to make up his mind on the merits of the matter.

Mr Norman Buchan (West Renfrewshire, Lab)—There will be a widespread welcome throughout Scotland for the proposal to have a timetable. If we fail to get this Bill through the House and submit it to the people of Scotland, there will be only one group of people pleased, despite their support for the timetable motion, if this Bill goes into the sands—the Scottish National Party.

On getting the timetable motion through depends the survival of the United Kingdom.

Mr Foot said that Mr Buchan's amendment would be one of the first matters to be discussed on Thursday.

Mr David Crouch (Canterbury, C)—Does he consider he has become a prisoner of the procedures of the House and has no opportunity to draw on the strong reserves of generosity? There is a strong feeling in the House that we want longer time to debate this decision.

Mr Foot—Most people have agreed that timetable motions even on important Bills can be properly considered within the three-hour period. The standing orders of the House were altered not so many years ago to deal with the situation.

I am always prepared to see whether our procedures should be altered at some stage to accommodate any proposals. There is not a strong case for it in this instance.

Mr Ronald Atkins (Preston, North, Lab)—Would he indicate before the debate whether he is to consider making any major concessions on the Liberal proposals like granting taxation to the assembly?

Mr Foot—What the Government have on a number of occasions indicated is that they are prepared to consider fresh proposals about a marginal taxation arrangement. (Cries of "Oh".) There is no question of "Ohs" or any such alarm. This has been said during the committee stage on a number of occasions.

We would certainly be prepared to look for other arrangements if they could be found. We believe it is difficult to find them. There is nothing new in that proposal.

Mr Edward Heath (Bexley, Sidcup, C)—He is entitled to come to the House to ask for a timetable motion on a constitutional measure, is right in saying that standing orders allow three hours and also in saying there are many precedents for the statement he has made.

The House should feel it has had perhaps more than it is entitled to in discussing this measure. The timetable measure should give full time—perhaps again more than he had originally envisaged [...] sion of the Bill—but th[...] important question of t[...] discussion of the Bill [...] period.

The House should [...] opportunity of feeling [...] able fully to discuss the [...] measure.

He should reassure [...] that there is ample tim[...] rest of the Bill to go thr[...] orderly way so that it [...] to the Lords with MPs f[...] or there that we have [...] with the major issues in [...]

Mr Foot—We will seek [...] that it be discussed in [...] orderly manner and we [...] with a situation whereby [...] of the proceedings a w[...] of matters go to the L[...] have not been discusse[...] seek to ensure that that [...] the business committee.

As for the time availa[...] who sees the motion w[...] the order paper will s[...] offering considerable ti[...] we have done from the [...] of the operation of th[...] would be absurd for [...] acknowledge there b[...] demands from many qu[...] we should look at it aft[...]

I do not give any [...] about providing a whole [...] will look to see wheth[...] any other method by wh[...] have an arrangement.

Mr Pym—I support wha[...] said. In reply Mr Foot [...] the business committee, [...] details of the timeta[...] ought to be on the or[...] There are precedents fo[...] not see in the absenc[...] details he could give a [...] answer to Mr Heath w[...] for an orderly debate.

Mr Foot—The way in w[...] matters are dealt wit[...] them orderly depends [...] happens in the business [...] The best way of orga[...] debate is that it should [...] the business committee.

I will look at the ma[...] light of the representat[...] but it is not so easy to [...] the pledges to all differe[...] of the House.

Mr Timothy Raison (Ay[...] said a new factor in the [...] was the arrival on the s[...] minority parties. By the [...] the Front Benches, [...] Councillors had had t[...] imate say, the chances o[...] vative backbencher be[...] were probably nil. Mr [...] welcome that, but it w[...] Parliament. (Conservati[...]

Mr Foot said it was t[...] have a debate in which [...] vative backbencher wo[...] but he would take that [...] account, not in the tem[...] ner but in the other sens[...]

Police pay: refusal to intervene in dispute

The Prime Minister declined, in reply to a question from Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, to intervene personally in the dispute over police pay.

Mrs Thatcher (Barnet, Finchley, C) asked: Why in his view was it that when we had the pay dispute over the seamen's claim, it was able to be resolved generously and satisfactorily within the pay policy, but the Government seem totally unable to respond in the same way to the police claim?

This is giving rise to considerable concern and all parties hope that the Government will be able to respond and solve it generously within the pay policy. (Conservative cheers.)

Mr James Callaghan (Cardiff, South-East, Lab)—If it is possible to solve the policemen's pay claim within the pay policy, Mrs Thatcher need have no doubt that that will be done.

The two cases of the police and the seamen are not, I understand from my cursory examination, altogether on all fours. (Conservative cries of "Why cursory?") Because I am not the responsible minister. The Home Secretary is the responsible minister.

They are not altogether comparable as I understand it, but the Home Secretary is doing what he can to try to get a settlement of this matter.

I have always taken the view that the police service should get the best possible conditions. But we cannot break the pay code—that has been generally accepted—even in the most deserving cases.

If we can find something within the limits of the pay code I agree with Mrs Thatcher that that is what we should do.

Mrs Thatcher—No one in my party has ever sought a breaking of the Government's pay code. (Labour interruptions.) When we had the National Union of Seamen's dispute I said so.

As he does not hesitate to take over responsibility from other departments, would he intervene personally in this? After all, he has special knowledge of the police claim and it is one which is important for the future safety of the citizens of this country.

Mr Callaghan—I have not taken over responsibility from other ministers, even though she insists on going on saying so. It would not be right to do it in this case.

These matters will receive overall Government consideration.

EEC food price rises

Mr Nigel Spearing (Newham South, Lab) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what was his estimate of the effects on the retail prices of butter, cheese, beef, pork, bacon and eggs, respectively, of the remaining transitional steps, as agreed by the Government, from 1970 to 1974, as part of the Treaty of Accession to the EEC.

Mr John Silkin (Lewisham, Deptford, Lab)—Retail food prices depend on many factors, including the extent to which market prices are influenced by institutional prices and the costs of processing and distribution.

The effects of transitional steps cannot therefore be accurately predicted.

I can, however, indicate the equivalent in retail price terms of the remaining two transitional changes in the CAP institutional prices.

These are: butter, plus 12p a pound; cheese plus 5p; beef, plus 4p; pork and bacon, plus 1p or 2p a pound; eggs, plus 1p to 2p a dozen.

The figures assume present level of CAP prices and an unchanged green pound.

Torts Bill

The Torts (Interference with Goods) Bill passed its report stage.

Measures to help South West region

Mr Robert Hicks (Bodmin, C), opening for the Opposition a debate on unemployment in the South-west, said the South-west development area had an unemployment figure of 11.8 per cent, the highest for any United Kingdom development area.

The Government were mistaken in allocating the country's scarce resources on such a large scale to the inner cities. Just because there were fewer socialist MPs representing rural constituencies did not mean that the needs of those constituencies should be ignored.

In the West country small companies were the wealth creators and thus the providers of employment, but initiative was being stifled and profitability kept to a minimum.

Unless the trend was quickly reversed, adequate investment would not be forthcoming and future employment prospects would be dampened rather than made better.

Mr Albert Booth, *Secretary of State for Employment* (Barrow-in-Furness, Lab) said that in the South-west nearly 22,000 people had been unemployed for more than a year. This was a tragic waste of human potential. The complexity of the problem was such that there were no blanket solutions.

Many people seemed to regard the South-west, because it was an area of outstanding natural beauty, as an area of agriculture and tourism. In spite of any general impressions to the contrary, the South-west was heavily dependent upon manufacturing industry for employment.

The Government in cooperation with the Manpower Services Commission has introduced a wide range of special schemes designed to ameliorate the worst effects of the recession. Department of Employment measures had assisted 19,000 people in the South-west region. They had been particularly effective in assisting young people.

In the region 11,000 jobs were sustained by the temporary employment subsidy and the job creation programme was currently providing 4,500 jobs at a cost of about £4,250,000. The training opportunities scheme had been steadily and consistently expanded. Measures to stimulate training would ensure that the region had the requisite number of skilled men and women available when the up-turn came.

He was encouraged by the success of the accelerated project scheme in the South-west.

Mr David Penhaligon (Truro, L) said there was an air of despair and a feeling that London did not care. It was breeding the worst sort of nationalism in Cornwall.

Mr David Mudd (Falmouth and Camborne, C) said the Government should turn their regional industrial support not to helping the bounty hunters who came in search of grants but the traditional industries.

Mr Harold Walker, *Minister of State for Employment* (Doncaster, Lab) said agriculture was a major industry and productivity and net profit should recover in 1977-78 from the effects of last year's drought.

The motion for the adjournment was rejected by 275 votes to 257—Government majority, 18.

Next week

Business in the House of Commons: MONDAY: Coal Industry Bill, second reading. Covent Garden Market (Financial Provisions) Bill, remaining stages. TUESDAY: Timetable motion on Scotland and Wales Bill. Debate on EEC documents on textiles. WEDNESDAY: Debate on Liberal Party motion on reform of government. Debate on UUUC motion on security in Northern Ireland. THURSDAY: Scotland and Wales Bill, committee stage. FRIDAY: Abortion (Amendment) Bill, House of Lords Reform Bill, and other private members' Bills, second reading. Business in the House of Lords will be: TUESDAY: Cruelty to Animals Bill, Deer Bill, and Roe Deer (Close Season) Bill, second reading. WEDNESDAY: Debate on Bullock committee report. THURSDAY: Torts (Interference with Goods) Bill, third reading. Patents Bill, committee stage. Debatable question on Rent Act 1974.

Encouraging signs of improved standards in state schools

Mr Norman St John-Stevas, *Opposition spokesman on education* (Chelmsford, C), opening a debate on standards in education, said the facts from which the discussion started were generally accepted. First was the anxiety and dissatisfaction of many parents with the education their children were receiving. Second was the fear that was felt by representatives of employers and trade unions that young people were not being equipped with the needs of twentieth-century industrial society.

We certainly welcome (he said) the conversion of the Government to the standards gospel which we have been preaching for three years. It is irritating politically to have one's clothes stolen but educationally we are delighted.

However, there was the continuing vendetta being waged against the grammar schools and the obsession with the question of secondary reorganization.

It was inconsistent with the policy of promoting high standards to destroy good schools where high standards had been achieved.

The educational system in the foreseeable future would be comprehensive. The House was united in rejecting the 11-plus examination. The point of dispute over the organization of the secondary system was a narrower but extremely important one. Was there room within a predominantly comprehensive system for local option and for the retention of a number of selective schools?

Mrs Williams had said in a television programme recently that the comprehensive system was failing the gifted child. She was recognizing that a certain number of selective schools could help to meet the problems of gifted children. This had been recognized even in the Soviet Union.

The crux of the issue was that a selective school was not about privilege but about opportunity. Above all it was about the opportunity for the bright child with a working class background.

Conservatives stood by their pledge to repeal last year's Education Act which compelled local authorities, against their judgment, to turn comprehensive.

On priorities in standards, literacy and numeracy should come first. Mrs Williams should give first place to maths because there was a crisis here. In the primary schools there had sometimes been a virtual collapse of maths teaching. The key was better teachers.

Two out of five primary school teachers had no "O" level mathematics. In order to teach mathematics there should be a requirement for qualification up to "O" level and for secondary school teachers it should be up to "A" level.

Those teaching in schools should be helped by in-service training. He hoped the Secretary of State would consider the problem of contracts for teachers, and whether the time had not now come for teachers to be on fixed contracts, not only teachers in the schools but head teachers as well.

He begged the Secretary of State not to make the same mistake over sixth-form colleges as were made over comprehensive education. She should not uncritically accept a form of organization which might well have something to be said for it but also had something to be said against it.

Just as they wanted a variety of schools they wanted a variety of sixth-form provision. It was too early to say the only form of sixth-form organization should be a sixth-form college.

The time was overdue for a decision on the ill-thought-out proposals put forward by the Schools Council for a common examination. It was high time these proposals which had been heavily criticized throughout the educational world were dropped.

What they wished to develop was education for life in Britain in the second half of the twentieth century, a Britain struggling to survive in an ever more competitive world and to sell the products of industry without which all their ideals for society would become a chimera and compassion would become a mere sentiment which they would not be able to transfer into reality.

They needed better moral education, not sex education as such, but to instil a sense of personal and social responsibility in youngsters.

In one sense education was not a political subject at all, but in another sense it was right at the centre of the political stage, infinitely more important than economics which tended to dominate debates. Long after those debates had been consigned to the bound volumes of *Hansard*, the decisions they took in the educational sphere would still be alive and before them.

Mrs Shirley Williams, *Secretary of State for Education and Science* (Hertford and Stevenage, Lab) said that deeply imbedded in Britain's traditional education system, notably in the universities and the so-called great independent and grammar schools, was a strong hierarchical view that to become a professional or academic person was in some sense a much finer calling than to work in industry in any capacity. The whole House recognized that it was in part that tradition, which so clearly downgraded industrial and craft achievements, which was one of the greatest difficulties that Britain had to cope with in education.

It was important, in relation to standards in education, to lay before the House and the country the evidence that the Government had, which was as much evidence, if not more than, anybody else in the country had. That evidence was that standards had improved, not as much as they would have wished, but they had improved over the past 10 years.

The evidence pointed to a more rapid upward turn of standards after the present system settled down and the rapid expansion of school population over the past decade had settled. The broad position was one of encouragement with some areas of concern, which she had no intention of disguising.

All knew the tragedy of a substantial number of adult illiterates in society, many of whom had been educated by methods now advocated in some quarters.

There is no evidence in any national or local tests to give support to the assertion that standards of reading were generally lower.

There had until recently been a high rate of turnover of teachers; demands of organization had taken up teachers' time; the profusion of methods and approaches to teaching had, to some extent, been confusing to teachers passing through the colleges.

Less sophisticated critics were unlikely to mention the extent to which population movement to new estates and new towns had much more to do with what was happening in education than had general remarks about educational standards.

The number of children leaving school with "A" levels had gone up from 14 per cent to 15 per cent of the school population: and those taking five or more "O" levels at the higher grades had gone up from 8 per cent to 9 per cent of the total age group in 10 years. This gave no evidence of falling standards.

There had been a dramatic improvement in the number of children getting higher grades of CSE or the middle grades of "O" level, from 14 per cent in 1964-65 to 25 per cent in 1974-75.

There was evidence of a slight improvement in "A" level and "O" level pass standards, and a dramatic increase in average grades in terms of examination passing, with the overall result that four out of five children were taking some sort of public qualification, whereas 10 years ago only one in two managed to achieve that.

The overall national figures for the wastage rate of teachers indicated there was an opportunity for a substantial further improvement in standards in the next few years. The wastage rate had fallen from 10.5 per cent nationally in 1968 to 6.5 per cent last year. That meant that there was a more stable teaching force.

She was worried about the situation in modern languages. More and more schools were offering only French, and many youngsters did not appreciate how great were the opportunities, especially in industry and commerce, from learning some of the less popular languages. In mathematics the position was a good deal better and the evidence of an upsurge in interest in collecting science qualifications was one of the more encouraging aspects of education.

She shared the Schools Council objective of getting a common system of examination. The education system had been struggling with multiple examinations in further education and the school sector for too long. It was her inescapable responsibility to find out whether a common system was feasible. She did not yet know whether it was. It would be better to have a common system. She would determine her position in the light of the studies being undertaken.

The last thing she wanted was a Schools Council which was a sort of poodle of her department. That would be no way to go forward. It was not unreasonable to suggest that the Schools Council ought to have a wider range of lay people. It was not unreasonable to suggest that there ought to be wider discussion between her department and the Schools Council about some of the priorities over work. She had no desire to change the Schools Council into a rubber stamp for future ministers and officials at the department.

A great deal of the exaggerated claim about falling standards in education would not stand up to the evidence. While standards had generally improved, no one could rest until there was the highest possible standard that could be achieved for all children.

Mr William van Straubenzee (Wokingham, C) said that there was little sound evidence to show that standards across the country were falling. There was a danger that the morale of teachers would be lowered if all they heard was criticism.

Mr Giles Radice (Chester-le-Street, Lab) said the establishment of comprehensive secondary education had made it possible to concentrate as never before on the essential question of how to achieve equality of opportunity for all by raising the standards of all children.

Mr Alan Beith, (Berwick upon Tweed, L) said the priority in achieving standards in education must go on providing good teachers and a good ratio between teachers and children. Education could never have the needs of industry as its sole purpose.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab) said it was nonsense to talk about increasing standards of education when there were young people unemployed who should be teaching in the classrooms, and when a great deal more money should be spent on education.

Mr Keith Hampson (Ripon, C) said the employers' association in Coventry had material showing how concerned employers were at the capacity of apprentices to express themselves in writing and to do simple arithmetical calculations. So MPs had to beware of figures which seemed to show that things were improving.

Mr Caerwyn Roderick (Brecon and Radnor, Lab) said what was needed more than a common examination was a common certificate which would be an assessment of a child leaving school.

Mr Rhodes Boyson, *an Opposition spokesman on education* (Brent, North, C) said Conservatives were concerned with literacy and numeracy and with teacher training and teacher intake. Contracts would have to be considered for head teachers and teachers as well, instead of a lifetime tenure in the job.

There needed to be an assessment of what was being done by the 70 sixth-form colleges in existence before there was any more encouragement for more to be built.

Miss Margaret Jackson, *Under Secretary for Education and Science* (Lincoln, Lab), said they were giving high priority to collecting more evidence of what was happening in schools so that they could see where the problem areas were and how best they could be solved.

The motion for the adjournment was rejected by 281 votes to 249—Government majority, 32.

Emergen[...] debate o[...] deportati[...] rejected

Mr Alexander Lyon ([...]) unsuccessfully asked fo[...] gency debate on the c[...] Agee and Mr Hosenball. [...] raised the issue again [...] Government were n[...] pressed for a debate ne[...] Government time and b[...]

If that situation was [...] unchanged both men [...] deported from this cou[...] the beginning of March [...] would be no opportun[...] House to discuss the m[...] upshot of that would be [...] utive action would have [...] in relation to deportatio[...] which was incapable [...] checked by any approa[...] courts or by any othe[...] judicial review and [...] assurance was given by [...] vative Home Secretary [...] this was specifically a m[...] dealt with by the Hous[...]

It was wrong that t[...] unfettered executive po[...] only be discussable in [...] by the grace and favo[...] executive in granting t[...] cuss it.

Mr Stanley Newens (Ha[...]) had earlier said a dee[...] outrage had been produ[...] decision to deport Mr A[...] Hosenball and he want[...] ment time for a debate.

Mr Michael Foot, Lea[...] House, said he did not [...] the issues involved in [...] case were important, bu[...] not offer Government [...]

Mr Leslie Spriggs (St H[...]) said that since it had bee[...] the House that Mr Ag[...] Hosenbal were a dang[...] state, was it not wro[...] them to make available [...] mation for which the H[...] tary was deporting ther[...]

Would Mr Foot co[...] necessity of putting the[...] with the object of enabli[...] defend themselves a[...] charge which no MP [...] thing about?

Mr Foot said he could n[...] this stage into a discus[...] merits and demerits of [...]

Exchange o[...] information [...] on tax evasi[...]

Mr James Johnson (Kin[...] Hull, West, Lab) ask[...] Chancellor of the Exche[...] arrange for closer coop[...] tween the Departments [...] Revenue and HM Cu[...] Excise by the exchange [...] tion about the evasion o[...]

Mr Robert Sheldon, [...] Secretary to the Trea[...] written reply, said—Sec[...] the Finance Act, 1972, a[...] vides full statutory au[...] the Inland Revenue [...] Customs and Excise D[...] to supply each other wi[...] tion to assist in the perf[...] their duties; but becaus[...] takings given during the [...] the legislation, exchang[...] mation have been made [...] Head Office arrangemen[...] directly between local [...]

It seems likely that [...] between local offices [...] could be of real help i[...] tax evasion and I [...] authorize such an ex[...] selected information a[...] ment in one selected [...] year, with a view to ex[...] arrangement generally [...] is worthwhile.

In selecting an area [...] able to choose a conurb[...] the area covered by a [...] corresponds fairly clos[...] area covered by a gro[...] districts and with this [...] Leeds has been selecte[...] purpose.

Parliamentary n[...]

House of Commons

Today at 11.00: Housing [...] Persons) Bill. Road Traffic [...] (Amendment) Bill, and o[...] members' Bills, second r[...]

E NEWS

method oid r ery

are not making use echnique for removus and other bowel hout major surgery, d yesterday

e 16,000 cases of cer a year, Dr Williams, consulan at St Mark's and lomew's hospitals. l. But bowel surgery nificant risks: a of about 5 per cent complications, such , in about a fifth of

ms, addressing the ege of Physicians, w technique, colonwed doctors to see be passed into the ugh which a wire be passed to cut growths known as

ique could also be samples of growths e accurate diagnosis In many cases fears ncer turned out to d, Dr Williams said.

oscope could save rd of patients with wths from major

bowel surgery, intwo-week hospital bly cost at least operation, he said. could usually be without an overnight ut £100.

ique had been availout five years and tals had the necesnent. But the techot easy to learn, so uses the equipment used.

n the technique and tres to which hosld refer patients money now but lead ings later.

ms said that at his new £200,000 unit financed from recharity funds. Even night not be availan extra nurse to ing it.

Road inquiry announced: Traffic in Archway Road, north London, yesterday, the proposed widening of which is to be the subject of a new inquiry, starting on April 19 (our Planning Reporter writes).

After an announcement by the departments of the environment and transport yesterday objectors immediately sent a telegram to Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport. They said that in the light of the Greater London Council's opposition and the Government's decision, announced on Monday, not to improve the A1 between Archway Road and the North Circular Road, the proceedings would be a farce and a waste of money.

The previous inquiry last September was adjourned after repeated disruptions by protesters, when the inspector, Mr James Vernon, became ill. Yesterday's announcement said those proceedings would be abandoned and disregarded. A new inspector, Mr R. L. Rolph, had been appointed.

e to meet over pay

rell
spondent

Federation, which 120,000 police ngland and Wales, n emergency meetxecutive committee sday to discuss the etary's refusal to -week demand.

ior members of the were meeting at arters in Surbiton, night, representae two thousand members of the Police Superintendents' Association were meeting officials at the Home Office.

The association said later: "We have told the Home Office that we wish this dispute with the federation to be settled as quickly as possible. We also want to put in a pay claim, but until the men on the beat have resolved their problems we cannot ask for more money.

Parliamentary report, page 6

New car from Aston Martin

A new sports car with exceptionally fast acceleration is announced today by Aston Martin. It is called the Vantage, and is a development of the company's two-door V8 model, which remains in production (our Motoring Correspondent writes).

Modifications to the 5.4 litre alloy engine have produced a claimed top speed of 170 mph and acceleration from rest to 60 mph in 5.3 seconds.

In brief

IRA prisoner is attacked

Martin O'Connell, one of the four IRA men sentenced to life imprisonment last week for his part in six murders and other offences, was attacked by another prisoner in Walton prison, Liverpool, on Saturday.

The Home Office, which did not name Martin O'Connell, said: "When the prisoners were coming in after exercise a prisoner hit another prisoner in the face once. The prisoner who was assaulted and the prison officers were unable to identify the attacker."

Immigration rose by 6 pc

An increase of just over 6 per cent in the number of immigrants to Britain in the third quarter of last year, compared with the similar period of 1975, was reported by the Home Office yesterday. The sharpest increase, of more than a fifth, was in the number of foreign non-EEC nationals. Between July and September, 3,384 (2,790 in 1975) were allowed to settle on arrival.

The number of United Kingdom passport holders admitted was 2,969 (3,396) and 5,963 (5,409) other Commonwealth citizens were allowed entry.

Gliding mishaps 'carelessness'

Injuries and deaths in the *sport of hang-gliding* are generally the result of carelessness, Mr Martin Hunt, chairman of the British Hang Gliding Association, said yesterday.

He told a symposium on the sport at the Royal Aeronautical Club, London: "It is a sport loaded with potential hazards, very few of which are likely to cause serious harm, provided they are approached sensibly *and handled carefully*."

Anemometer to control by-pass

An anemometer, which measures the force of wind, will command the use of an £8.4m by-pass to be opened at Dover today. A section of the seven-mile bypass is on a viaduct that climbs from sea level to the top of the cliffs.

When the wind gets too strong the anemometer will set off an alarm and that section will be closed to all traffic.

Sisters found gassed

Two elderly sisters, Rosanne and Agnes Boyd, were found gassed in their council house in Howgate Road, Hamilton, Strathclyde, yesterday. Police said there were no suspicious circumstances. Gas board officials are investigating.

WEST EUROPE

Rome's leftist students shout down Communist trade union leader

From Peter Nichols
Rome, Feb 17

The Communists' attempt to reimpose order in the chaotic university life in Rome took a violent setback today when students of the extreme left refused to give a hearing to Signor Luciano Lama, alead-ing Communist trade unionist. He was already hanging in effigy by the neck by the time he arrived at the university gates.

By midday some 50 young people had been hurt in fighting between Communists and members of the various extreme left-wing groups occupying the university. Insults were exchanged. The Communists shouted: "Assassins" and "Fascists" at the extreme left, who replied, shouting: "Servants" and "Fools" and making ironic gestures referring to the fact that the official communists were demonstrating with protective ranks of riot police in full equipment behind them.

One commented: "They are using the methods of Prague—provocation and then intervention by the armed forces."

The extreme left believes that the Communists have betrayed the cause by becoming a party of government. Some of these groups refuse to accept parties at all and feel most passionately against a Communist Party sharing power with the governing Christian Democrats through supporting them in Parliament even if the Communists are *not officially memebers of the* Government.

The Communists, for their part, have regarded themselves as supporters of discipline and order ever since the great student riots of 1968 caught them unprepared. No one talks with greater insistance than Signor Berlinguer, the Communist leader, of the need to study seriously, to accept sacrifices in order to gain an education, to maintain a disciplined student life, and to be morally worthy.

Signor Lama tries to make himself heard

Nothing could be farther from the moralism of the Communists than events in a *number of universities* including Rome in the past few days. Yesterday there were *demonstrations against proposed governmental reforms*. To this many of the left-wing students (on this at least the whole left is agreed) added another protest against the presence of young fascists in the universities.

Studies had come to a halt. The universities of Palermo, Rome, Naples, Milan, Padua, Turin and Cagliari were occupied by the students. They were joined by many pupils of secondary schools.

Some of the extreme left-wing groups extended their protests to include the Communist Party and the trade unions.

The situation within the universities was in no way improved by the speech yesterday in the Senate by Signor Franco Malfatti, the Minister of Education, who appeared impervious to the thought that his reform, which many students do not like, follows nine years of promises not kept. This is the real problem in the universities.

And so it was a gamble when the Communists decided that Signor Lama should go to Rome University today and speak from the steps of the rector's offices about teachers' salaries and the problems of univesity students and graduates seeking work.

Signor Lama, a Communist, is the leader of the predominantly left-wing union federation, but he regards the trade union movement as autonomous from the politicians.

He could be expected to run less risk than a straightforward Communist politician. He can also be an attractive speaker. But today he was given no chance to show his oratorical talents.

Interruptions began early in the speech, most of them of a good-natured kind. Some of the students shouted slogans which were the opposite of Signor Lama's known policies, such as: "We want more money not jobs". But the tone soon changed. Fighting began between Communists and the extreme left. Stones were thrown and one student sprayed the crowd with foam from a fire extinguisher.

Community plan for customs union with Malta

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, Feb 17

The European Commission has approved a proposal to open negotiations with the Maltese Government, aimed at eliminating remaining trade barriers and establishing a full customs union between Malta and the Community. The proposal will now be put before the Council of Ministers.

The negotiations would be conducted under the terms of the association agreement which Malta signed with the EEC in April.

With the exception of refined petroleum products, all Maltese industrial goods now enter the Community duty-free, though four sensitive categories of textiles remain subject to quotas.

EEC move to ensure its supplies of uranium

From David Cross
Brussels, Feb 17

The European Community today took a significant step towards ensuring unimpeded and steady supplies of uranium for its power stations. These have been threatened by the growing clamour, particularly in North America, for tighter safeguards on overseas sales of nuclear materials.

After nearly two years of tortuous negotiations with EEC member states, the European Commission has notified the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna that all the safeguard and verification procedures required under the 1970 non-proliferation treaty have now been implemented by the Community.

This means in effect that eight of the Community's nine member states are now applying IAEA safeguards and allowing inspectors from Vienna on to their territories to carry out verification procedures. France, which has refused on-the-spot checks, remains the odd man out.

Nevertheless, there is considerable optimism in Brussels that France will shortly change its mind and enter into a trilateral agreement with the IAEA and Euratom, the Community's nuclear wing, similar to the one concluded by Britain last September. The voluntary agreement signed with Britain which, like France, is a military nuclear power, allows the IAEA to inspect non-military nuclear installations.

Fast wives rule over Rhineland carnival

From Dan van der Vat
Bonn, Feb 17

Any man reckless enough to wear a tie in the Rhineland today runs the risk of having it cut off below the knot by a tipsy virago armed with scissors. This curious custom is just one of the many strange manifestations of the German carnival tradition.

The five-day celebration until Shrove Tuesday marks the peak of the carnival season, which officially began at 11.11 am on November 11. It is the biggest party of the year in the Roman Catholic half of West Germany.

Today is Weiberfastnacht—wives' fasting eve or, inaccurately translated but accurate in spirit, fast wives' night. It is the day on which the women dominate the festivities.

This festival was invented by the washerwomen of Beuel on the Rhine opposite Bonn more than a century ago.

These muscular ladies objected to the fact that the men used to have most of the fun at carnival time and decided to have an annual fling of their own. The tradition has become widespread.

The tie-cutting custom is taken seriously. Girl pupils chop the ties of their schoolmasters, secretaries those of their bosses and any man wearing a tie on the street is fair game.

A kiss may also be demanded from the victims, who tend to complain that the enthusiasm of the perpetrators varies in inverse proportion to their beauty.

Another of today's customs brings local government to a halt. At 11.11 am crowds of women "storm" the town halls, overwhelming the token resistance of the major, and cutting off his tie.

Paralysis also struck the Federal Government in Bonn. There was dancing in the Chancellery and it was impossible to get any sense out of ministry switchboards.

The man owning the bookshop near the Federal Parliament turned up dressed as a washerwoman, with heavy make-up and an impossibly exaggerated bosom.

Transvestism is a strong element of the carnival tradition. Among the crowds there are respectable fathers of families who have raided their wives' wardrobes. Some women return the compliment by turning out in male attire.

In the evening there are fancy-dress dances at which the women have the exclusive right to issue invitations to the dance floor.

The carnival tradition here goes back to the Middle Ages and probably beyond.

call for standing commission to supervise the media

ing is the text of a Mr Moss Evans, nizer of the Trans-General Workers' yesterday at a conade unions and the ized by the TUC.

doubt that repetition n by the media can affect the views not general public, but union membership. t only repetition of inions which is danselective presentation ts can be more misany biased opinion, angerous because of basis of fact. We all what is not said is ore important than

ent experience of the ampaign the hysteria eged power of the the recent disputes Attorney General and , none can doubt the wer at the disposal of

ad individual unions ently warned of the eadily increasing conf ownership in the ndustry, and in the lly, and of the need more effective means proved abuses. This as not been matched ssary degree of perting action taken on supported by the

e have had good resed by congress, and e volume of evidence royal commissions. as been little or no achieving the ends

re recommendations the ABS resolution ACTT resolution of he TUC evidence to ommission remain a basis for action. But very light in action. of the media, from nion point of view, four principal elements: 1, the ownership and control of newspapers and television networks; 2, establishing a means of monitoring the output of the media to establish balance, or lack of balance; 3, devising a practicable code of objectivity, balance, fairness and accuracy, to govern presentation of news and opinion, and 4, a means of policing and enforcing any such publicly agreed criteria.

The ability to regularly convey news and views on a mass scale carries with it great power to shape and direct public opinions. That much will scarcely be disputed by any interested party. Therefore the media possess great powers, potentially very dangerous to the community at large, and particularly dangerous to the interests of any class, section or group who do not have effective control over any section of the media.

One standpoint, therefore, is clear. The public are entitled to protection from abuse of this power to influence it. Those who possess these powers must be required to exercise them within the terms of an "operator's licence". The qualification for holding such a licence must be the acceptance and practice of clearly defined standards of responsibility and accountability. TUC policy has already defined the instruments necessary to the attainment of these ends.

A standing commission for the media is required to fulfil the following functions, through appropriate committees and other bodies:

a) A continuous check on the ownership and control of all newspapers, magazines, radio and television networks, to prevent any further concentration, to publicize all interlocking interests, and actively to promote dispersion of *ownership and control*.

The necessary committee would be responsible for advising government on any subsidy seen to be required to preserve a viable and free press, and for contonuously reviewing the economic situation in the industry.

b) To give large and representative groups in society, such as the trade union movement, the positive opportunity to enter the national newspaper publishing field, through a National Press Finance Corporation. This NPFC would receive all advertising revenues, and deduct a levy before passing such revenues on to recipients.

Mr Evans: "Fight for a free press."

Such a system would minimize the opportunity for large advertisers to dictate editorial policy in any section of the media, and would provide the means for the NPFC to buy printing plant, which could be leased to representative interest groups with the capacity to sustain a major publishing venture. This corporation would be empowered to control the proportion of advertising to editorial material in all sections of the media.

c) To maintain a continuous monitoring of all material issued through all aspects of the media, in order to have the means to check, and verify or disprove, in a detailed fashion, any complaint of lack of balance, distortion, invasion of privacy etc.

d) A capacity to ensure the full immediate and public investigation of all such complaints, and the full, immediate action necessary to correct any misleading information or to redress any lack of balance.

e) A responsibility, exercized through a committee of employers and trade union representatives from within the industry, to pursue good industrial relations in the industry, through full recognition of trade union rights at all levels, and the active encouragement of industrial democracy in the industry.

The commission envisaged would be thoroughly representative of all major sections in the community, through public appointment following consultation with unions and employers in the industry, and would, of course, be responsible to the appropriate minister. Panels of advisers from the appropriate unions and employers' bodies should work with the commission.

I believe, that to protect our essential interests, the trade union movement requires its own continuous monitoring service covering all the media to keep under scrutiny, treatment of all our activities, and those aspects of domestic and international news relating to our activities.

We must fight for a free press in this country, and the right for all views and opinions to be expressed. But a freedom limited to a very small and powerful section of the community is no freedom, it is privilege and patronage. And we must insist upon real public control of television and radio in order to give the public freedom of expression.

We must never forget that for years the blame for all the country's economic problems has been left at our door; all this nonsense about high wages and irresponsible *workers has gone virtually unchallenged* in the media. Don't forget that the power that persuades people that trade unions wield irresponsible power over governments is that same power that would subvert the real power of our movement, which rests in the unity of purpose of our members.

Landlords urged to make stand against officials

Private landlords in Nottingham have been told by their solicitors to use force if necessary to get rid of council officials found on their property without permission or without a court order.

A statement from the solicitors, issued yesterday, said legal action would be taken in the civil court against individual officials of Nottingham City Council who entered buildings without authority.

It added: "Entry has been obtained without any form of permission from the owner or occupier simply by opening an outer door and walking in, or by adopting an officious or even intimidating attitude

"Someone must make a stand against these intrusions into the privacy of our homes. Accordingly, members of the Private Landlords' Association are forthwith instructed to deny access at all times to employees from the Nottingham department of environmental health without court orders and to escort them by force, if necessary, from the property

Mr Royce Young, chief environmental health officer, described the allegations as vicious and said they were totally denied.

Larry Adler decree

Mrs Sally Adler, aged 38, the wife of Larry Adler, aged 63, the harmonica player, was granted a decree nisi in London yesterday based on two years' separation by consent.

Literacy drive success

Nearly 110,000 adults have come forward for help with reading and writing since the Adult Literacy Campaign was started in 1975, the BBC said yesterday.

WEST EUROPE

25 Danish papers stopped by strikes

From Our Correspondent
Copenhagen, Feb 17

Strikes by technical staff stopped the publication today of 25 Danish newspapers representing well over half the total press circulation.

Members of printing unions were protesting against a labour court ruling yesterday which ordered the technical staff of the Berlingske publishing house to return to work immediately.

The Berlingske employees have ignored the order. They will hold a meeting on Monday to decide whether to resume work.

Union officials attack the labour court as an extension of the powers of employers, and want to eliminate it as the final authority in labour disputes.

Printing unions are fighting as well to preserve some concessions gained in the past which have been dropped by Berlingske because the company faces a serious loss this year. Berlingske also intends to introduce new technology and work schedules to simplify production and reduce printing staff by about 300 of the present 1,000.

The conflict at Berlingske has hindered publication of its two main newspapers, *Berlingske Tidende* and *B.T.* since January 30. The national newspapers, *Politiken* and the mass circulation *Ekstra Bladet*, as well as the leading provincial newspapers, did not appear today.

"The labour court is a rudiment from the past, an instrument of ruling class oppression of those without possessions", Mr Louis Andersen, the leader of the Copenhagen typographers' union, said on the Berlingske decision.

He asserted that the labour court had accepted the arguments made on behalf of Berlingske on every point and that none of the unions' counter complaints had been supported.

Franco loyalists still unable to accept the new order

Spain's march to democracy has shattered morale of police

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Feb 17

Visitors to senior officers at the central security police headquarters in Madrid's Puerta del Sol see pictures of King Juan Carlos on the walls. But in the basement, where prisoners sleep in small cells on concrete slabs, the photographs of Franco have not been removed.

In a way, that is symbolic of what is happening in the ranks of the powerful security police and the armed forces: those who venerate the Generalissimo and the authoritarian system he stood for, are going underground.

Not even most Spaniards are aware of the extent to which police morale has been shattered by the march toward democracy, nor of the serious dissent within the armed forces.

While a military uprising seems unlikely, there is strong resistance to the Government's policies, frequently resulting in disobedience and insubordination.

Unless the Government can control the police and soothe leaders of the armed forces, Spain will be threatened with a breakdown of authority and a consequent increase of violence.

Weeding out the many people formed by, and still loyal to, the old order is a difficult and politically dangerous task, as Señor Suárez, the Prime Minister, first found when he and the King tried to put Lieutenant-General Santiago y Diaz de Mendivil, the former Deputy Prime Minister, and another conservative officer on the inactive reserve list.

The generals balked at the royal decree, and an embarrassed Government and monarch, discovering that the two generals had much support among the armed forces leaders, backed down.

On other occasions, the Suárez Government has been *more successful in neutralizing* recalcitrant officers, but it has earned the Government, and particularly Lieutenant General Manuel Gutierréz Mellado, the present Deputy Prime Minister, the anger of officers who justifiably fear that his planned reform of the military establishment will unseat them from command posts or comfortable jobs.

When political policemen staged an illegal anti-government demonstration in Madrid late last year, the Suárez government reacted with characteristic speed and firmness.

Nearly 300 policemen, including members of the security police and the paramilitary Guardia Civil, were arrested, and the three *senior* police generals were immediately transferred to distant assignments. Many of the police, after two months in prison, were suspended or dismissed, and 14 were held for court martial.

Tempers of some naval officers are seething too over the recent arrest of Captain Camilo Menendez Vives, executive officer of the Navy War College, and the transfer of his commander after Captain Menendez Vives insulted General Gutierréz at the funeral of three policemen shot by terrorists.

There is more still to keep the fires of resentment smouldering among military diehards. Under Franco, the political and military authority was closely linked, to the extent that military men on active duty were encouraged to take posts *such as directors* of *private* companies or government enterprises. The Dictator was generous in finding jobs for his generals and admirals.

If Spain is to have a new political system, therefore, it must have an entirely professional, full-time military establishment, and that is what General Gutierréz is trying to create. Thus many officers are suddenly faced with having to give up their outside jobs or risk losing their military status and retirement pay.

Francoists in the barracks are already forming secret cells. A new royal decree penalizes the public espousal of any particular political philosophy by members of the armed forces.

To help smooth the ruffled feathers of Spain's police and armed forces, the Government is giving them as much new equipment as possible, at the same time emphasizing professionalism.

But in an Army where the Fascist salute is still the accepted form of greeting for at least one commander, will that be enough of a substitute for political influence and power?

Russia seeks licences for 40 boats

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Feb 17

The Russians today gave the EEC the names of about 40 boats which they want to see licensed for fishing within the Community's 200-mile zone, according to informed sources.

The Soviet application came in belated response to a request first submitted by the EEC on January 28. The Russians were then told that they had 10 days in which to apply for licences for 27 boats, of which no more than 17 would be allowed to fish at any one time.

This deadline passed without any response from Moscow, and several more reminders were sent. Whether or not the EEC will be prepared to give the Russians more than 27 licences will depend on the tonnage of the boats listed.

Yesterday the Community and the Soviet Union opened negotiations on a long-term fishing agreement.

La Pasionaria asks for passport home

Moscow, Feb 17.—Señora Dolores Ibarruri, "La Pasionaria", of the Spanish civil war, has applied for permission to return to Spain immediately from her Moscow exile, reliable sources said today.

They said a representative of Señora Ibarruri, president of the illegal Spanish Communist Party, called at the Spanish Embassy in Moscow last night to make the application. Her secretary, Irene Falcon, is also seeking to return.

Señora Ibarruri, now aged 81, came to Moscow in 1939 at the end of the civil war in which the Republican Government was overthrown by Franco's Falangist forces.

Last week Spain and the Soviet Union established formal diplomatic relations; upgrading the trade missions which had existed in the two capitals for three years to the status of embassies.

Señora Ibarruri has already had at least one application to return refused, but it is thought the situation may have changed, since the Communist Party has applied for legal status in Spain.

Señor Santiago Carrillo, the party secretary-general, who also played a prominent role during the civil war, is living openly in Spain, though he was briefly arrested in December.

The return of Señora Ibarruri could be the signal for a final exodus of about 2,000 Spanish exiles still in Moscow. About 20,000 came to the Soviet Union at the end of the civil war.

Madrid: A Communist Party spokesman said Señora Ibarruri had applied for a passport and he believed she would have no difficulty getting one.—Reuter.

Soares brief put to Danes

Copenhagen, Feb 17.—Dr Soares, the Portuguese Prime Minister, who is touring EEC capitals to plead the case for his country's entry into the Community, today had more than two hours of talks with M Anker Joergensen, the Danish Prime Minister.

Menten plea for release

From Our Correspondent
The Hague, Feb 17

Mr Pieter Menten, aged 77, the tycoon and art collector, extradited to the Netherlands by Switzerland in December to face war crimes charges, including the execution of more than 100 Polish Jews, is demanding his release because, he claims, he is not Dutch but stateless.

Mr Menten, who lived before the war in part of Poland which is now Soviet territory, claims that he and his deceased first wife, were granted Polish nationality in 1937. They obtained new Dutch passports in 1937 from the Dutch Consul in Lemberg (now Lvov). These passports, he said, were bought for a bribe.

If Mr Menten can prove that he is not a Dutch citizen, the Dutch cannot prosecute him.

M Barre says American ban on Concorde would be blow to fair competition

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Feb 17

M Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, said today that any decision taken against Concorde by the United States would be regarded in Britain and France as a blow to fair competition.

Addressing a luncheon meeting of Anglo American Press Association, he said public opinion could never understand that a world power standing for free enterprise should adopt an attitude which appeared to be designed to preserve the United States from competition in aircraft technology and development.

President Carter informed Mr Callaghan and President Giscard d'Estaing yesterday that while he would not interfere with the 16-month trial period allowed Concorde by the Ford Administration, this would not prejudice his final decision on whether the airliner would be given permanent landing rights.

M Barre said today that it was necessary to look at a second statement issued from the White House three hours later which had corrected the more restrictive interpretation put upon President Carter's message.

The ultimate decision on provisional landing rights for Concorde in New York rests with the New York and New Jersey port authority and, according to French Government sources, the prospects for a positive decision are not unpromising since business circles and the trade unions are favourable to Concorde.

M Barre was asked about French exports of nuclear technology, and especially about the controversial delivery of a reprocessing plant to Pakistan.

In his reply he repeated that France would not promote nuclear proliferation but was ready to make a contribution to the use by developing countries of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. France would not submit to dictation in the matter, and would honour the contract with Pakistan.

As for the export of nuclear power plant to South Africa, the Prime Minister said South Africa had no need of assistance if it wished to produce nuclear weapons. It was quite capable of doing so unaided. There was no reason to refuse to sell power stations designed solely to produce nuclear energy for peaceful ends.

OVERSEAS

Anglican Primate's attack adds to church-state confrontation over South African race policy

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, Feb 17

The increasing confrontation in South Africa between the multi-racial churches and the Government took on further significance today with a statement by the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town.

So far, the renewed outbreak of church-state hostilities has centred on the Roman Catholic Church. Last week the Roman Catholic *bishops issued* a declaration of commitment which, among other things, identified their full support for the individual's right to refuse to wear military uniform in a campaign which might be racially unjust and defended the Catholic Church's decision to open its private schools to children of all races.

Today the Anglican (Church of the Province), Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev Bill Burnett, added his influential voice to the growing chorus of clerical opinion that South Africa is on the wrong track.

The Archbishop spoke after the death of an African security detainee, Matthew Mabelane, aged 22, who fell 10 floors to his death on Tuesday from a window at police headquarters in Johannesburg where he was being interrogated by security police.

He said: "Imprisoning and interrogating people until they die, banning people and what they say, cannot produce a society which is worth living in.

"Many white South Africans find it increasingly intolerable that so high a price should be paid in this and other ways by black people for the political and economic advantages that we enjoy.

"If prisoners die as a result of injuries received during interrogation that is, at best, manslaughter. If they commit suicide, there must be reasons for their ending their lives in so desperate a fashion. This, also, is wholly unacceptable."

It was reported here today that an investigation by senior police officers has been ordered into the safety of detainees at interrogation centres. A total of 19 people, most of them security suspects, have died in detention during the past year.

A white Anglican priest in the Cape Town black township of Nyanga was sentenced today to three months' jail for refusing to disclose the names of eyewitnesses to alleged police action during the township unrest.

The Rev David Russell told the Cape Town magistrates' court he had undertaken not to disclose the names.

Lieutenant-Colonel Erenayo Wilson Oryema: the other Kampala victim.

American UN envoy urges nationalists not to use violence in southern Africa

From Peter Strafford
New York, Feb 17

Mr Andrew Young, the new American representative at the United Nations, today set out to argue the case against the use of violence in southern Africa. Too much destruction would be damaging to the African liberation movements themselves, he said, because the less that was destroyed, the better off they would be when they had majority rule.

Mr Young was commenting at a press conference in New York on his recent visit to southern Africa, where he met several of the African leaders.

He said it was difficult for Americans to tell others what to do in pursuit of their freedom, especially since they had waited for so long to be involved. But the diplomatic powers of the nationalist movements were superior to their military powers, he thought.

When he was questioned about the prospects of a peaceful solution in the area, Mr Young commented that "peaceful" was a relative term. When he had met the presidents of the "front-line" states in Tanzania, they had all said that there had to be armed struggle, because nothing else would get Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, to the negotiating table.

But they also recognized that there had to be diplomatic initiatives as well, and no one was making a call to "burn Salisbury to the ground". He thought that there had been a measure of restraint in the military actions, together with an increase in rhetoric.

Mr Young added that he was opposed to the "romanticism of violence". He thought that this was largely a feature of people who were not themselves actively involved

Dismay at Amin plan to visit London

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

President Amin's announcement that he intends to come to London in June for the Commonwealth Conference and the Queen's Jubilee has dismayed the Foreign Office, particularly in the light of yesterday's tragedy in Uganda.

The Foreign Office has always found it extremely difficult to deal with President Amin, and in breaking off diplomatic relations with Uganda, it decided *not* to deal with him at all. That seemed the best course, as soon as most of the British people living and working in Uganda had had time to pack up and leave.

Formally, the Government cannot stop the President coming to London. The invitations to the Commonwealth Conference were issued to all heads of state by Sir Harold Wilson, when he was Prime Minister, at the last such meeting in Jamaica. There, Uganda was represented only by a diplomat, which avoided any embarrassment.

It is still not clear exactly what President Amin's intentions are. The present hope in the Foreign Office is that he will just not arrive. The risk of attempting to discourage him now, it is feared, is that it might simply provoke the very event it is designed to forestall.

The real *dilemma* is the *unavoidable involvement* of the Queen.

All the heads of government are to attend a banquet and reception at Buckingham Palace on June 8, the opening day of the conference. Similarly, they will attend the thanksgiving service in St Paul's on Jubilee Day, June 7.

Mr Oboth-Ofumbi, Minister for Internal Affairs: killed in Kampala.

Churches' call to end terror

From Alan McGregor
Geneva, Feb 17

The World Council of Churches issued a statement on the death of the Anglican Archbishop of Uganda, the *Most Rev* Janani Luwum, saying that this was "one more in the series of brutal events which have characterized a six-year reign of terror in which thousands have been summarily killed".

It called on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to undertake a thorough investigation into the situation in Uganda "and to take immediate steps to prevent the killings of persons who may now be in imminent danger".

"It is clear the situation in Uganda can only be changed by massive international actions in support of the courageous struggle of the churches and others in Uganda to stop what appears to be a new wave of *massacres*."

The council appealed to African countries in particular.

Dr Phillip Potter, the council's general-secretary, recalled that this was the year of centenial celebrations of the coming of Christianity to Uganda.

Mr Niall MacDermot, the secretary-general of the International Commission of Jurists, said: "It is the Christian churches who have been able to offer such little resistance—if that's the word to use—as there is against the terror of the Amin regime and there is reason to feel this may be the beginning of an attempt to clamp down on the press and all activities of this kind by the Christian churches standing up for human rights within the *country*."

Mr MacDermot is an observer at the Geneva session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

Mr Allard Lowenstein, the United States delegate, said that the commission had been reminded "of the urgency of appropriate consideration of human rights problems."

Chrome ban 'will not upset Rhodesia

From Michael Knipe
Salisbury, Feb 17

The Rhodesian Go said today that a repe United States Congre Byrd amendment, wh United States import ore from Rhodesia, regretted but would serious disadvantage Rhodesian mining in

Mr Michael Cawood retary for Mines, said ment that Rhodesia w be able to dispose of was likely that some Chrome ore would c reach the United Stat by more circuitous rou higher prices to after its sponsor, ha the United States Rhodesian chrome in the United Nations tions since 1971. Carter is supporting would have the amen pealed.

Since the introducti amendment, Mr Caw on, consignments of c to the United States limited *and the quanti* have been absorbed

Rhodesia sustained of 847 professional wo year, according to g statistics, includin teachers, 100 accoun auditors, 98 engin nurses and midwive medical practitioners.

There was a gain clerical and related s 51 miners, quarryme lated workers.

The total loss of eco active white, Asi Coloured (mixed race) women was 2,601 comp a gain in 1975 of 726. all net migration loss

A military communi said that in the past government forces h 16 African *nationalist* five black women stea in a war zone durin and one black mal breaker. It reported t of two Rhodesian sol added that terrorists dered six African trib

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ıssian hint that pressure from est over dissidents could eck progress made in détente

obert Evans
, Feb 17

Soviet Union is serving that constant public by the West on com- countries over the ights issue could effec- reck moves to revitalize

is the interpretation ior diplomatic analysts cing on the attitude in Moscow after the ice last weekend of a nt Kremlin document ing the official view on s in communist society r Western defenders.

ocument, in the form ısigned leading article da, was seen as a to American expres- concern, which were by President Carter, rests of Soviet and ıvak dissenters.

ıpearance is seen by diplomats in Moscow ucing a new, strongly y note to the Krem- itude to Washington ı a month after Mr nauguration.

interpretation, the believe, is backed by taneous publication of by a leading Soviet commentator develop- theme that mutual an element without ente cannot survive.

ticle was written by r Bovin, who is o enjoy good relations Leonid Brezhnev, the st Party leader. Its was that trust could ablished if either side he basic interests of communist system and dictate internal policy to Soviet block countries.

The analysts said the vehemence of the document's language, clearly approved at the highest level, indicated that Soviet leaders felt their vital interests were being assaulted and had now decided to draw a definite line.

Quoting a recent speech by Mr Brezhnev, the document said that the 1975 European security conference agreements on the overall improvement of East-West relations could only be implemented in a good political climate.

The analysts also saw in the document a hint that the Soviet Union might be ready to sacrifice the chance of a new strategic arms limitation treaty with the United States unless the Carter Administration took a less strident line on the dissident issue.

The document, which denounced Soviet dissenters as "traitors" paid by the West who were seeking to bring fascism or at least the evils of capitalism to their country, suggested that the present attacks on critics of the system would continue.

Mr Bovin's article, published in the weekly current affairs journal *New Times*, expanded on a definition of détente given by Mr Brezhnev in his recent speech to which Soviet officials have since constantly sought to draw Western attention.

Mr Brezhnev said détente implied willingness to solve differences at the negotiating table and presupposed "a measure of trust and readiness to take due account of each other's legitimate interests".

Mr Bovin, whose article was couched in reasoned and measured tones, said détente could only exist in an atmosphere "of mutual concessions and compromises, which strengthen trust and security".

Several reasons have been put forward to explain the pressure against political dissidents, three of the most prominent of whom have recently been arrested.

One explanation, favoured by the dissidents themselves, is that the authorities want to silence protests over alleged human rights violations before this summer's European security conference in Belgrade.

Another suggestion is that Soviet and East European leaders are alarmed by the surge of activity by dissidents at a time of economic problems.

This latter view, some Western analysts say, would help explain why the Kremlin was ready to put at risk a détente relationship it has championed so vociferously, by taking tough measures against dissidents and implicitly snubbing President Carter on the issue.

The analysts point out that in 1968 the Soviet Union invaded Czechoslovakia, although it realized the action would disrupt moves towards better East-West relations at that time, because it saw its ideological as well as its physical security endangered.

Whether Moscow feels strongly enough to stall the strategic arms limitation negotiations, due to resume when Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, comes to Moscow at the end of March, is an open question.

But Soviet attitudes and policies leave no doubt that the Kremlin is not willing to make concessions on the ideological front simply to avoid strengthening the hand of those opposing Mr Carter's strategy of détente.—Reuter.

ravda document con- tatements issued by ican State Department ent arrests and put he context of what it ampaign by opponents e to undermine the

Nixon gifts described as chicken feed compared to big business aid to Congress Party

Money weighs the election scales in Mrs Gandhi's favour

From William Frankel
Bombay, Feb 17

The political eye of the storm has moved from Delhi to the constituencies on this the last day for nominations for the Lok Sabha elections. Mrs Gandhi travelled to her constituency, Rae Bareli, to lodge her own nomination papers today.

Before leaving the capital, she made repeated statements of her desire to see free and fair elections. But whether they will indeed be democratic, fair and free is still open to question.

The relaxation of the emergency for the election has brought the release of many detainees, among them opposition candidates. All opposition parties, other than the three small banned groups, are free to campaign and press censorship is not being applied.

But the opposition claims that thousands are still in detention all over the country and that the ruling Congress Party alone possesses the advantages of power and money.

In most rural constituencies each with about half a million voters, many people will not go to the polling station unless taken by car and cars cost money.

It is not only getting them there which is an advantage. Cars are potent vote-getters in the remoter districts where a drive can make a more persuasive appeal than a manifesto.

In the interview she gave me earlier this week, Mrs Gandhi claimed that her party did not have an unfair financial advantage over the opposition and she denied that the Congress Party had received large gifts from big business.

On the other hand, a leading industrialist with direct knowledge told me: "The gifts for which Mr Nixon was criticized are chicken feed compared to what business houses are giving to the Congress Party here—the poorest country in the world."

Another reliable big business source told me of cases of civil servants promising tax reductions or other benefits in return for political contributions. These go mainly not to the party direct, but in payment for "advertisements" in party journals or sourvenir brochures, some of which have already been published when the advertisements are solicited.

Mr Mohamed Yunus, one of the Prime Minister's close associates, has toured the country for "advertisements" for the *National Herald*, a front for the ruling party's political propaganda.

Money is indeed all-important in the election campaign and the Minister of Finance of one of the Congress-ruled states put it to me delicately when he conceded that "financial help flows more easily to the Congress Party".

The partiality of All India Radio and Television, which is government-controlled, is readily verifiable. For example, there was nothing in the main news bulletin on the day of the opposition rally in Delhi at which some 200,000 people heard the two main opposition leaders, Mr Jayaprakash Narayan and Mr Jagjivan Ram. Yet the previous day almost half of the news bulltin was devoted to Mrs Gandhi's great rally at the same place.

One of the early tests of the fairness of the election will come when election officials consider the nominations within the next week. Widespread disqualifications—and these are not expected—could constitute a body blow to the opposition.

Because of the recent constitutional amendments, any candidate challenging a disqualification can no longer go to the state high court which could act expeditiously, but only to the High Court—an expensive and slow process

Free and fair? Certainly there is freedom of expression in India today. But the fairness of the election will be questionable so long as the scales are so weighted in favour of the Congress Party.

Not only are many opposition election organizers still detained but the opposition party apparatus is far less prepared, financed and staffed than that of the Congress Party. In rural areas there will be few opposition officials to watch the ballot boxes as they are hauled long distances to the count and guard against the possibility of rigging en route.

Our Calcutta Correspondent writes: Mr Jayaprakash Narayan told a large public meeting in Calcutta this evening that Mrs Gandhi had ordered an election only because she was afraid of a "people's explosion". He declared.

Mr Narayan bitterly criticized the pro-Moscow Communists who have an electoral understanding with Congress in West Bengal, but he asked people to support the Marxist Communists who have a similar understanding with the opposition Janata party.

Vance-Sadat talks on Middle East peace

From Our Correspondent
Cairo, Feb 17

Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, held talks here today with President Sadat and Mr Ismail Fahmi, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, on the Middle East situation including prospects for resuming the Geneva peace conference.

Mr Vance arrived here today on his first visit to an Arab country since he was appointed Secretary of State by President Carter. He has already visited Israel for similar talks which he described as helpful and useful.

In a statement on arrival here, Mr Vance said his mission was a fact-finding one and that the United States was doing its utmost to help the quest for a Middle East peace.

He paid tribute to President Sadat, saying: "We, in the United States, have the greatest respect and admiration for President Sadat, a man of vision and a statesman who is leading the search for a durable and lasting peace as well as a better economic life for his people".

An important issue in Mr Vance's talks here is the controversial question of the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) at the Geneva conference, which Mr Vance said it was hoped to reconvene in the second half of this year.

The Arab states, including Egypt, want the PLO to take part in the Geneva talks as a full member. Israel rejects this.

President Sadat welcomes Mr Vance before their talks at the Egyptian leader's home.

The United States is also opposed to the PLO taking part at the Geneva conference as a separate entity unless the PLO recognizes Israel's existence.

After a two-hour meeting President Sadat said he had proposed that a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation should be established even before the Geneva conference resumed. This was seen as a move by Mr Sadat to overcome the thorny problem of Palestinian participation at Geneva.

Mr Sadat conferred twice with Mr Yassir Arafat, head of of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), before Mr Vance's arrival in Cairo. They were believed to have discussed the Egyptian leader's plan.

President Sadat's suggestion could be interpreted as meaning that a single delegation consisting of Jordanians and Palestinians should attend the Geneva meeting. He said there should be "a formal declared link" between the Palestinians and Jordan. "What I have in mind is a confederation, but they (the Palestinians) are free to decide what they want."

Cairo, Feb 17.—President Sadat announced that he will be going to the United States early in April at the invitation of President Carter.

Beirut, Feb 17.—M Louis de Guiringaud, the French Foreign Minister, who is on a Middle East tour to see if France can help bring peace to the area, called on President Elias Sarkis of Lebanon today.

M de Guiringaud, who arrived in Beirut last night had talks earlier today with Government leaders. Mr Butros, the Lebanese Foreign Minister, said they had discussed questions and problems of rebuilding Lebanon's economy.

Mr Butros said France had promised to do as much as it could financially afford to help Lebanon's reconstruction.

Israel not to get US concussion bomb

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Feb 17

The American Government has decided not to sell the CBU72 concussion bomb to Israel. President Ford promised it in the closing days of last year's election campaign, partly to answer criticism from Mr Carter that the United States was not doing enough to help Israel.

Mr Carter also argued against some American arms sales, and has evidently concluded, after reviewing this particular item, that it is a weapon which should not be supplied to any foreign country.

The CBU72 is probably the most deadly non-nuclear weapon in existence. It is dropped by parachute from a jet and can obliterate anything over a circle up to 150 feet across.

A particularly volatile fuel is sprayed from the bomb, and ignited. Combustion is so rapid and complete that air is sucked out of the lungs of anyone there and none but the most solid structures could survive. The device is also used to clear vegetation in a jungle for a helicopter landing.

An earlier version, the CBU 55 was used in Vietnam, the Israelis wanted it to destroy Arab fortifications.

The last time this sort of upset happened, Dr Kissinger promised Israel some Pershing long-range surface-to-surface missiles, of a sort which could reach Egyptian cities from Israel territory carrying a nuclear warhead. Congress put a stop to it.

mlin says n match buildup

Feb 17.—Marshal Jstinov, the Soviet Minister, today urged l States not to try to military superiority, Moscow could swiftly ny new American

in the theoretical *Kommunist*, Marshal said that militarist the United States yet given up hope of military superiority Soviet Union by newer and newer f mass annihilation. y's economy, science logy are now at such evel that we are within the shortest matching any type of hat the enemies of te", be added.

Ustinov's article, d in advance of pub- Tass, was seen as a st to Western charges viet Union was itself ilitary superiority. It red to reflect high- ern in Moscow that can weapons develop- ld undermine pros- a future strategic d.

ence Minister denied Soviet Union was gain superiority by p its force levels.—

Yugoslavs expel human rights campaigners

From Dessa Trevisan
Belgrade, Feb 17

Yugoslavia today deported three West Germans who have been campaigning for the release of Mr Mihajlo Mihajlov, the author, and Father Sava Bankovic, an Orthodox priest, both serving long prison sentences for their public criticism of the regime.

The Germans, one of them a Roman Catholic priest, represented the Frankfurt-based Society for the Rights of Man. They arrived in Belgrade a week ago with a petition signed by 4,000 people in West Germany and France which they hoped to deliver to President Tito and the Yugoslav Minister of Justice.

The authorities refused to accept the petition and on Monday the Germans began a hunger strike.

This morning two policemen came to their hotel and informed them that they were being taken to the airport. They were put on a flight to Munich.

Moscow: Mr Alexander Ginsburg, the Soviet dissident who was arrested two weeks ago, has been formally charged, but the investigators refuse to give details of the alleged offences.

Mrs Lyudmila Ginsburg learnt that charges had been laid against her son when she went o nTuesday to Kaluga, south-west of Moscow, where he is being held.

Mr Ginsburg managed a fund set up by Mr Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the exiled author, to aid jailed dissidents.

The police said they had found Western currency in his flat during a search last month. This caused speculation that one charge could be illegal currency operations. Mr Ginsburg alleges that the police planted the money.

Dr Andrei Sakharov, the dissident physicist, has told Western reporters that his son-in-law has been warned to stop "spreading anti-Soviet slander". He said Mr Efrem Yankelevich, was told he risked a three-year prison sentence after being questioned for two hours in the Moscow prosecutor's office.—Reuter and Agence France-Presse.

London: Mr Vladimir Bukovsky, the exiled Soviet dissident, has issued a High Court libel writ against Mr Vladimir Dobkin, London correspondent of the Moscow-based Novosty press and picture agency.

The writ is also against the editor and publishers of The Guardian and arises out of the printing of a letter from Mr Dobkin.

Mr Bukovsky's solicitor said: "The letter states that Mr Bukovsky had been convicted in Russia of a very serious offence with which he was never even charged".

Chicago schools in race dispute face cut in funds

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Feb 17

New pressure was brought to bear on the Chicago school board today to overcome racial segregation in its schools.

A federal official ordered all federal funds to the board to be cut off because of arrangements by which black teachers teach largely in predominantly black schools, and white teachers in predominantly white schools. He also ruled that not enough effort had been made to provide bilingual teachers for pupils who know little or no English.

The Government provides about a sixth of the school board's budget. The board has 20 days to appeal against the cut-off of funds or to produce a plan for compliance with federal requirements.

e Czechoslovaks jailed for spying

Feb 17.—Three aks were sent to military court here arges of endangering ts and passing them n power, the Czecho- ss agency reported. leaded guilty.

initials of their last re disclosed. Jiri G. was sentenced to 15 for espionage and of representatives of socialist states. He was said to have passed abroad information of political, economic and military matters from 1962—until last year and distributed "Western reactionary magazines" defaming representatives of socialist countries.

In 1964 he was said to have set up, on behalf of the Voice of America, "The Club of friends of United States music" with himself as the only member, and thus established contact with an employee of a foreign mission.

He passed information on the "location of military garrisons, equipment of airports and other facts".

Milan K, aged 21, was sentenced to two and a half years in jail for "*revealing relevant* facts which he learnt during his military service". Petr C. aged 30, was sentenced to 18 months' jail for the "endangering of state secrets".—AP.

r envoy in ı for ın harmony

o Modiano
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t Carter's personal Ir Clark Clifford, Athens today on a ission to ease the kish conflict over d the Aegean and to nited States defence n this area.

ord had a brief first night with Mr Con- aramanlis, the Greek ister. They will have meeting tomorrow. Clifford paid a call on President

Greek journalists on at President Carter broaden and develop with Greece. "It is of the United States any contribution we intain peace."

recent spectacular nts in Cyprus, lead- proposed resumption ercommunal talks in March 31, in a sense cted the scope of Mr mission, although st contribution to a would be if, after ne is able to reassure s that the Turkish that led to the break- re sincere.

ford's talks are ex- focus on the future States military bases , whose status has en renegotiated. The ernment is now ready d at once with the f the revised bases

In brief

2,500 rescued from floods

Maputo, Feb 17.—A huge rescue operation continued today in Mozambique's worst flood disaster in which at least 300 people have died. More than 2,500 people were rescued yesterday by helicopter, lorry or jeep in the stricken southern Gaza province, official sources said.

TV doctor

New York, Feb 17.—Dr Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, has signed a five-year agreement with the National Broadcasting Company involving television appearances on programmes concerning international affairs.

Deaths in Argentina

Buenos Aires, Feb 17.—Argentine troops killed six left-wing guerrilla suspects today and later other suspects threw a bomb killing two civilians, the Army reported.

Mexican round-up

Mexico City, Feb 17.—Armed police today raided dozens of private homes in a crackdown on urban guerrillas who have killed at least 10 people this year.

Kosygin visit fixed

Helsinki, Feb 17.—Mr Alexei Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, will visit Finland as the guest of President Kekkonen on March 21-25, it was announced here today.

Britain 'to negotiate with Argentina' on Falklands

From Andrew Tarnowski
Buenos Aires, Feb 17

Argentina and Britain have agreed to raise their talks on the future of the Falkland Islands to the level of negotiations, according to Admiral Cesar Guzzetti, the Argentine Foreign Minister.

He told journalists last night that he and Mr Edward Rowlands, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, had agreed during their opening meeting on Tuesday that further discussions should be at the level of negotiations.

They would include the reappointment of ambassadors.

The correspondent of the Buenos Aires newspaper *Clarin*, reported from the Falklands that although pro-British "ultras" were in a majority among the islanders, "there is also a group favouring greater cooperation with Argentina.

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: Lord Shackleton is "somewhat disturbed" by what he described as misrepresentation by the Foreign Office of his report on the Falkland Islands, he told *The Times* yesterday.

In their extensive economic survey, Lord Shackleton and his team concluded that £5.4m spread over the next five years was necessary to finance a development programme for the Falklands. But in his recent speech to the Commons on the subject, Mr. Crosland, the Foreign Secretary, spoke of £13m or £14m.

This was highly misleading, in Lord Shackleton's view, because the Foreign Office's total was inflated by adding some £7m which the report said might be required at some future date for fishery development.

Inquiry into nuclear waste

Canberra, Feb 17. — The Australian Government has ordered a new investigation into the possible impact on the environment and ecology of British nuclear waste buried at Maralinga in South Australia.

Mr Jim Killen, the Defence Minister, replying to a question from the Opposition leader, Mr Whitlam, in the federal Parliament yesterday, said that the investigation was the principal recommendation in a report last year by the Australian Ionizing Radion Advisory Committee.

Mr Killen said an earlier study had produced no evidence to support allegations in an Australian Broadcasting Commission programme that radioactive waste was brought from nuclear power stations in Britain and buried at Maralinga.

The nuclear waste was mainly from British experiments in the area, Mr Killen said.—Reuter.

The need for a new look at pensions in inflationary times

In the December mini-budget the Chancellor decided to leave inflation proofed pensions alone. It had been rumoured that he was considering two possible changes. The first was to limit the rise in public sector pensions to the pay policy limits and the second was to make the annual increases discretionary. Some Cabinet Ministers objected, apparently at the last minute, but the decisive factor was almost certainly the appreciation that either change required amending legislation.

Mr Healey therefore asked the TUC to consider inflation proofed pensions as part of the negotiations on stage three of the social contract. So now is the time, before the cement hardens on stage three, to make one's own views clear. Moreover, it is important that voices, other than those of the TUC and the Government, should be heard on this complex issue.

The case which led the last Conservative Government to introduce inflation proofing for public sector pensions was very strong. Pensioners are in no way to blame for inflation; they are the victims of it, and therefore it is only fair to protect them from its ravages. All that they are being guaranteed is that their pension will not fall in real terms. For many years army and navy pensions were scandalously low. All that the Crown has said to soldiers and sailors who have enlisted since 1971 is that they or their widows and children will get their pensions in the undebased coin of the realm. Is that unreasonable? Moreover the principle of inflation proofing pensions is widely accepted, since all pensioners are now guaranteed by law that their basic state pension should keep pace with the cost of living by annual up-ratings.

That is all very well provided that the country can afford it, and that it does not produce real unfairness between different groups in society. The cost of the December 1975 increase of 26 per cent for public servants was £180m; in 1976 the increase of 13.8 per cent cost £114m. These are significant figures, and it is likely to be higher next year as the rate of inflation will probably exceed 13.8 per cent. Inflation proofing can be afforded if the long term rate of inflation is below 5 per cent. If however the rate of inflation is moving for a long period to a much higher level, say over 10 per cent, then the cost of inflation proofing will rise substantially, and the gap between those who benefit and those who don't will grow dramatically. Moreover, if pensions are the only things that are indexed, and tax thresholds and wages are not, then there will be a shift in the resources of the economy to the pensioners and this will be at the expense of those still at work.

Private sector pension schemes cannot afford to guarantee inflation proofing, though some companies make large payments out of their profits to give some additional protection to their pensioners. The public sector pensioner is therefore regarded as belonging to a highly privileged class, just as the public servant is regarded as living in a cosy world insulated from the real world where the real wealth of the community is created. This has led to extravagant claims that inflation proofed pensions are a vital element in the recruitment of youngsters to the public service. I find this hard to believe, and if young people thinking of entering industry are really concerned about whether they can potter peacefully after they have reached 65, then they and industry would be better off if they took their adventurous talents down to the town hall.

There is a much more real problem for the man of 40 who is thinking of switching jobs. But the answer to this is to enable private sector schemes to inflation proof. One way of doing this—namely the indexation of interest on government securities—has been advocated by *The Times*. Pension funds could then purchase investments which would yield a return that was constant in real terms. Indexation of public debt could, however, divert funds from other sources of saving and for this reason the Government are unlikely to do anything about it in the near future.

What then should be done? One of the first things to appreciate is the size of the problem. About 1,200,000 pensioners—former civil servants, local government workers, servicemen, policemen, teachers, MPs, doctors and nurses—get their pensions increased by law each December. About a further 800,000 workers, mainly in the nationalized industries, receive the same increase by custom, and so over two million pensioners are involved. Furthermore, there are about 6,500,000 people in public sector employment who confidently expect to get this benefit. Already the doctors have warned off anyone tampering with their inflation-proofed pensions, which they look upon as a contractual right.

Sir Eric Sachs, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, and an assistant adjutant general in the war, has argued the case for leaving the armed forces alone and particularly middle ranking former officers who in any change are likely to see their relative standard of living fall again.

There are several possible changes. First, pension increases could be limited to the general level of any pay policy that may be operating. This sounds attractive but it assumes that a pay policy will be a fixed and regular feature, and it is the nature of this beast that it comes and goes. Moreover, the savings in expenditure are tiny. If pension increases had been limited in 1975 to £6 a week, and in 1976 to £4, the savings would have only amounted in each year to £8m and £5.5m.

But there is one aspect of this that is palpably unfair. Many people can break the pay policy limits with fringe benefits, and so why should pensioners have to observe the lower letter of the limit rather than its higher result. A naval pensioner, for example, cannot get the fringe benefits that a seaman can get which allows him to receive more than £6. If pensions are tied to pay policy limits, pensioner pressure groups would supervise the pay policy much more keenly than the TUC. Perhaps a public servant pension alliance would follow the National Association of Freedom to the high courts to defend their claim for parity when a union succeeded in breaching the pay policy.

Secondly, there could be a *cut-off level at say pensions of* £50 a week, below which inflation proofing would continue and above which there would be little or no increase. This deals with former permanent secretaries, town clerks, and police chiefs, but the savings would be miniscule. It has a good socialist ring about it, but it is this road that leads to closing differentials and to marginal tax rates of 83 per cent and 98 per cent. Furthermore a fixed limit of this sort creates anomalies when those below have reached it. Then the incentive for those still at work at the higher salary level is reduced since their relative living standards postretirement will fall. Something will have to be done about the higher paid pensions, since if the salary of a senior person remains static and the pension rises by the inflation rate, the pension could be higher than the salary in about 7 or 8 years at the going rate of inflation—as Sir Robert Marks has found out. This could be dealt with by linking pension increases to earnings, rather than prices.

Thirdly, there could be a percentage upper limit for everyone of say 5 per cent or 10 per cent. This is, more attractive, since the savings would be substantial, and the state could fairly say that it will protect its pensioners from some, but not all, of the effects of inflation. None the less it would give better treatment than a private funded scheme could.

Brian Grimwood

So all these solutions are flawed. What is more significant is that each of them could actually create injustices. A fresh look at the problem is needed. Suppose the Government said to the whole of the public sector: "You can have inflation proofed pensions, but the present generation of employees in the public sector must contribute an appropriate amount for this benefit." In the periods when pay policy does not interrupt the system 1.75 per cent is deducted from the annual civil service pay increase to allow for inflation proofing. This simply cannot purchase the increases of 9 per cent in 1974, of 26 per cent in 1975, and 13.8 per cent in 1976. What is needed is an independent assessment, by public sector and private sector representatives, of what deduction would be appropriate. From inquiries I have made, a guaranteed 5 per cent annual increase would involve a deduction of 5 per cent, and an annual increase of 10 per cent, a deduction of 17 per cent—the rise is geometric. But whatever the figures may be, they should be established independently and openly. The openness is important since there is suspicion in the private sector that the public sector arranges these things to its own best advantage. As these calculations are carried out by the Government's Pay Research Unit, it would be possible to set this up as a public body with an independent chairman and a board drawn from both the public and private sector.

If this were to happen the public sector unions in their annual wage negotiations could decide which level of inflation proofing they want, and which the present generation of employees are prepared to afford, since they would have to foot the bill. Such a system would give parity with the employee who pays into a private pension fund. It would be fair and would not create new anomalies. I hope the TUC and the Government will consider it.

Kenneth Baker

The author is Conservative MP for the City of Westminster, St Marylebone.

How Spain lags behind in laws on marriage

While Spain is evolving politically towards a form of government similar to other western European countries, socially the country is still lagging behind as the recent adultery trials and the impossibility of obtaining a divorce show.

However there are signs that social reforms are on the way, with a reform of the adultery law and recognition of the right of divorce expected. Ironically Spain in 1932, in the second republic, was the first European country to have a divorce law, which was revoked by General Franco in 1939 after the civil war. Now Spain along with Ireland is one of the few countries which does not recognize divorce.

The adultery trials have caused uproar in feminist circles. "Justicia" is a feminine word in Spanish but as far as women are concerned that is about the only concession the law makes to them in matters of adultery. It is virtually impossible for a man to stand trial for committing adultery as the law gives him a privileged position, yet a woman can easily be brought to trial.

Article 449 of the penal code, the butt of much abuse in post-Franco Spain, says that a woman will be punished for having sexual intercourse with a man who is not her husband, even if she is separated or the marriage is in the process of being annulled.

Spanish law recognizes that the man can have as many extra-marital affairs as he likes as long as he does not commit adultery in the marital home or cause a public scandal. In practice there have been very few trials of adulterers but many of adulteresses.

The maximum sentence is six years and unlimited damages. While General Franco ruled, terms of imprisonment, usually of one to three years, were handed out. Since his death there have been several trials. At the end of November a man and a woman were sentenced to seven months imprisonment each. But for the fact that they committed the offence before November 25, 1975 they would surely have gone to prison. King Juan Carlos granted an indulto (pardon) on that day which covered crimes committed before then.

Seven months is almost the minimum sentence, showing that judges these days are loath to attract publicity on the issue. The lawyer of the offended husband had asked for six years and damages of £40,000.

This trial and others including that of a medical student in the autumn all culminated in demonstrations by women, some of them holding placards saying: "I too am an adulteress".

Until the law is changed the women in these cases still run the risk of coming to trial again "If my husband sees me with the same man more than three times this is sufficient grounds for him to bring a fresh prosecution", said Maria Benito, a medical student. The court rejected the charge of adultery brought by her husband in October "But if he misbehaves before the marriage is disolved (proceedings have started) there is nothing I can do even if I wanted to."

Lawyer Juan Ignacio Ortiz de Urbina Pinto, who defended the man and the woman in the November trial, says the reason for this double standard is that "our penal code is male-orientated. It is based on the Moorish idea of protection for women: that the woman is inferior to the man".

More importantly, the heavy punishments for adultery and the ban on divorce are due to the continuing preponderant influence of the Roman Catholic Church in Spain. According to the country's fundamental laws Spain is a confessionally Catholic country and "marriage is one and indissoluble".

General Franco revoked the divorce law because it was "radically opposed to the profound religious sentiment of the Spanish people". Now that the dictator is dead and the Concordat of 1953 regulating Church-state relations is being revised, probably leading to an eventual separation of Church and state, the way is open for a divorce law.

The Spanish Church has yet to pronounce on the divorce issue. While it is loath to support the cause, the more progressive elements recognize that it is a social reality, if not a desirable one. A special commission is drawing up the law which looks as if it will be a mixture of the 1932 one and the Italian Fortuna law. As in Italy there will probably be a referendum afterwards, assuming that the law is approved by Parliament. It could be one of the first Bills which next summer's democratically elected Parliament looks at.

The law is expected to list nine reasons for obtaining a divorce including the abandonment of the marital home for more than a year.

Lawyers estimate that about 400 couples separate every month in Madrid alone and about 400 more are separated by the existing ecclesiastical courts. This gives a national figure of over 100,000 couples who split up in a year and would probably benefit from a divorce law.

At the moment the only way a person can remarry in Spain is to have the marriage annulled. A lengthy process which on average takes about four years. There have been cases taking up to 16 years. The planned reform would remove the adultery issue from the penal code and place it in the civil code. The divorce law is likely to meet stiff resistance from reactionary elements who see it, like General Franco did, as a sign of decadent liberalism and so at all cost to be avoided.

William Chislett

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MURDER AT THE VIC[illegible]
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THE SONS OF OEDIPUS. [illegible] Acting."—Times. "The Big[illegible] in London."—Observer.

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"A PLEASURE TO WATCH." [illegible]
Googie WITHERS, John Mc[illegible] Bill FRASER, Clive FRA[illegible] Martin JARVIS, Jenny QU[illegible] in Somerset Maugham'[illegible]
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THE BED BEFORE YEST[illegible]
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DUSA, FISH, STAS &[illegible]
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ROGER-de COURCEY and [illegible] Richard HEARNE, Robert Y[illegible]
FIONA FULLERTON
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JESUS CHRIST SUPER[illegible]

PHOENIX THEATRE. 01-8[illegible] Evgs. 8.15. Fri., Sat. 6.0 [illegible]
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THE SEXIEST SHOW IN LO[illegible]
"SUMPTUOUSLY STAGED" [illegible]

PICCADILLY. 437 4506. Mon [illegible] 8.0. Sat. 5.30 & 8.30. Mat. [illegible]
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MICHAEL CRAWFO[illegible]
MICHELE DOTRICE
SAME TIME NEXT Y[illegible]
"SIMPLY GREAT"—Daily [illegible]
"TRIUMPH FOR CRAWFORD"[illegible]

[illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

THE ARTS

Bike shop dreams

Spokesong
Vaudeville

Irving Wardle

Together with republican politics, returning prodigals, and matriarchal courtships, the bicycle occupies an honourable place in Irish writing (witness Beckett and Flann O'Brien). Stewart Parker's achievement in this much praised transfer from the King's Head is to pull all these strands together in a view of 80 years of Irish history in terms of "the last development in technology that everyone understands".

Under the double threat of the planners and the bombers, Frank's bike shop functions both as a whispering gallery for old Belfast and as the setting for his campaign to pacify "five square miles of anger and internal combustion" by poaching the Amsterdam civic bicycles scheme.

Before his dreams are punctured, we get a commentary on the bicycle's evolution from 3500 BC, an introduction to its usefulness in war together with a session of bike drill, the intimate stripping of a ladies' model down to the crank assembly, and a demonstration of the unicycle as a ukelele.

There are plenty of turns and rousingly varied chorus numbers by Jimmy Kennedy. But at the same time the sense of modern Belfast is stealthily invading the stage; a few exhausted lines from Frank's schoolteacher girlfriend, a pet shop going up in smoke, a brief scene with an overbearingly amiable UVF man canvassing for protection money. Not much, but it sends a shiver down the spine.

In common with much of the best Irish drama of the past 10 years the play touches on big events through the lives of small people. Mr Parker earns no marks for originality in that, nor in adopting the favourite Irish form of the memory play. His big contribution is his ability to say something quiet, positive and funny with his eyes firmly fixed on the present. The limit of Frank's disillusion comes in the superbly modest line: "I don't see any future for an advocate of cycling in this town."

The piece is not without stereotyped Irish characteristics, such as its bossy wooing scenes and its fondness for polysyllabic witticisms, especially where snide British residents are concerned.

Robert Gillespie's production is somewhat sluggish for a vaudeville piece, especially in its lighting cues, and the quick changing Robert Bridges is emphatically more effective in some parts than others. But the humane tone and honesty of the writing are fully sustained by Niall Buggy and Annabel Leventon. John Scully's loaded set is as good as a trip to a bike museum.

The Taming of the Shrew

Covent Garden

John Percival

Whatever happened to the laughter? When the Stuttgart Ballet brought Cranko's *Taming of the Shrew* to Covent Garden there were hoots of laughter all through. At the Royal Ballet's first performance of the work on the same stage on Wednesday it was 25 minutes into the piece befor eethe first guffaw big enough to register on my pocket seismograph, then 10 minutes before the next. True, the various dances, watched in respectful silence, were nearly all applauded, but what kind of reaction is that to a knockabout farce?

The performance was simply too genteel. No blame on David Wall, whose Petruchio has a convincing swagger and a nice line in lechery, vividly visible on his malleable features. But before he can strike sparks, he needs a Kate much more flinty than Merle Park provided. Her shrew was too tame from the start, and when she did start to come alive in the final scenes, it was far too late.

We shall have to wait and see whether the dancers get the knack later, or perhaps whether other casts will manage better. Watching Lesley Collier's cheerful tenacity wasted in the sweet simplicity of her present role as Bianca, I could not help thinking she might have been able to pull off the bigger part. The other performance with some guts to it was Michael Coleman's as Hortensio. He gives his brief solos character as well as technique, and puts on an amiably leering grin as he repeatedly and smugly smooths back a straying lock of long dank hair.

Wayne Eagling puts immense energy into his solos and duets as Lucentio, but there is no romance or fun in his dancing yet. The other solo parts were rather laboriously done, and the celebratory *pas de six* will look better if the performers learn to keep in time, with each other and the music.

Not that anyone can be refused sympathy for the lack of inspiration the score provides, as Merle Park pointed out on this page last Saturday. Kurt-Heinz Stolze's restless adaptation of Scarlatti put me in mind of Pope's definition of the Alexandrine, "that like a wounded snake, drags its slow length along".

What with that burden, and the insipidity of Elisabeth Dalton's designs (stockbroker's Tudor in Padua, would you believe?), the ballet needs all the help it can get from its performers: much more than it received at this showing. Even in the Stuttgart production the temperature fell when replacements were on. We must hope for a happier outcome.

Jenufa

Theatre Royal, Glasgow

William Mann

In the present state of economic stringency, joint productions between opera companies will become increasingly necessary. The first venture of this kind within Britain is the shared new production of Janácek's *Jenufa*, first shown by Welsh National Opera 17 months ago, now transferred to Scottish Opera with the same sets, producer, conductor and principal soloists.

In Cardiff I had some reservations about a decently turned out show; in Glasgow on Wednesday the same production had been transformed into a shattering, profoundly moving interpretation of what many had long acknowledged as a great opera of the early twentieth century. *Jenufa* is about a small village community where intermarriage breeds complicated family trees so that the main characters are all more or less dimly related. It is about religiosity masquerading as decency, love and lust, and the longing for fulfilment or domesticity, also a longing to transcend the peasant environment by education or travel or some such. There is some folksy nationalism too, relevant to the period, the mid-1890s, but it is not important and Maria Björnson's settings fairly play down the tourist colourfulness.

The tone of the opera is set by the huge mill-wheel in the first act, its frenzied activity mirrored during the prelude by a picture of the Buryja household equally frenziedly peeling vegetables for supper, a perfect reflection of Janácek's music particularly when Jenufa, longing for the absent lover who has given her a baby, jumps to her feet mouthing mute agony before rushing away. In Glasgow the scene engraves itself upon the heart; in Cardiff, when the production was new, it passed almost unremarked.

Josephine Barstow's Jenufa is more beautifully sung than before—she has now lodged the music and the words into her artistic personality. Allen Cathcart, too, has turned his Laca into a clumsy tall slob instinct with devotion, unwillingly turned to violence or rejection. Gregory Dempsey makes Steva a soft-centred rustic fop, the victim of his own selfishness.

The *clou* of the production is Pauline Tinsley's Kostelnicka, a self-centred, tormented dynamo. In Cardiff she sang the part strongly but did not completely suggest the tensions, between the bigoted matriarch and the younger folk, which wing the terrible drama on its way. Now they are terrifyingly there in full force. Her irruption into the tipsy carousal in the first act is pyrotechnical: she clutches Steva, dancing on the table with Jenufa, and instantly he tumbles to the ground.

It is chiefly in the second act, piously longing for the bastard baby's death, frenetically accomplishing it, trying with all her might to placate Jenufa's two potential suitors, then collapsing in superstitious terror, that Miss Tinsley pulls Janácek's music together, one tiny phrase after another, and creates an electric tension which bids fair to ignite every light in the theatre.

The subsidiary characters are beautifully done, each strong in individuality, as much testimony to David Pountney's sensitive production over the months as to Scottish Opera's present quality. As impressive, almost, as anything was the precision and subtlety of the playing, by the Scottish Philharmonia under Richard Armstrong, in the preludes to the three acts, fine solos, perfect style, under complete control, lovely sounds to introduce terrifying drama which came across with equal vividness.

Prospect Theatre's new chairman

Laurence Harbottle has relinquished his chairmanship of Prospect Theatre Company to chair the Arts Council's Housing the Arts committee. He is succeeded at Prospect by David Russell, former chairman of Colman Prentis and Varley.

Sequel to National Velvet

Bryan Forbes has been signed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer to write and direct *International Velvet* as a British-made sequel to one of the studio's best known films, *National Velvet*.

The film marks MGM's return to British production after an absence of several years, and photography will start in the West Country this August.

Chayevsky/Lumet television tantrum

David Robinson

Network (aa)
Leicester Square

Kings of the Road (aa)
Gate

The Gatekeeper's Daughter (x, London)
Cinecenta, Panton Street

Cavalcanti Retrospective
National Film Theatre

Career girl: Faye Dunaway and team in Network

It is 20 years and more since Paddy Chayevsky and Sidney Lumet erupted into the cinema as the first generation of golden boys to bring new ideas and new vitality from television. Chayevsky's television play *Marty* was filmed in 1955; Lumet made his screen debut with *Twelve Angry Men*, another television adaptation, in 1957.

Twenty years is a long time; and meanwhile Chayevsky and Lumet have evidently become fearful and angry about television. Or maybe not exactly angry, but cross and middle-aged and depressed. *Network*, written by Chayevsky and directed by Lumet, was evidently meant as an apocalyptic *Strangelove* satire, but a lot of the time seems only a crotchety tantrum.

The idea is that Beale, a run-of-the-mill newscaster (Peter Finch), depressed at his low ratings, suddenly flips and announces to his diminishing television audience that next week at the same time he'll be blowing his brains out on screen for their entertainment.

Apparently repentant, he asks for a chance to go on and apologize: instead he lets go a stream of invective against the world at large and television in particular. Only after he and everyone concerned with the broadcast have been sacked do the ratings start to come in. The audience, used to the bland inconsequences of the small screen, are thrilled by this verbose "Mad Prophet of the Air". Everyone is reinstated, and the wretched madman is obsessed with what he now believes is a divine vocation to harangue the nation every night at six.

Finally, though, he meets a holier being even than God—the big boss of the great corporate conglomerate that has taken over the station, who easily convinces him that his mission is henceforth to promote the gospel of the capitalist and corporate utopia. To attack big business, he thunders, is to meddle with the primal forces of nature.

After this, of course, the *Beale Show* ratings fall; and the only solution is to have him assassinated on screen as an extra attraction of *The Mao Tse Tung Hour*, the serialized real-life exploits of a group of radical terrorists, one of the wave of dissent-and-protest programmes that has followed in the Mad Prophet's wake.

The careful actuality of the setting (it was shot in the CFTO-TV Studios in Toronto and the MGM Building in New York) only heightens the strain of believing in the extravagance of the story and the extreme caricature of the stereotype television characters. The targets of the satire, too, seem rather too widely spaced for effect, ranging from the conglomerate's hatchet men put in charge of the station (Hollywood itself can provide plenty of models for these) at one extreme to the radical terrorists who prove as good capitalists as the rest the moment they see the colour of money. Between times the film swipes around rather vaguely at the programme makers, the complacent audience, business ethics at large.

If the overall effect seems diffuse, individual moments have bite. There is a telling scene at the start of the film, when Beale's announcement of his impending suicide meets with total absence of response within the studios, where people are so immunized that they are blind and deaf to anything seen or heard on the tube. Faye Dunaway, too, is often funny as the prototypical, viciously charming television career girl, still chattering on about her programmes and ratings even—maybe specially—at the moment of sexual climax.

The two central performances, too, go far to redeem a film of somewhat shattered notions. William Holden plays a television executive, defeated, battered, passed by, betrayed, but still fighting to retain some shred of human feeling and reaction—a lone survivor in a world of Disneyland automata. Peter Finch's obsessed and tormented madman was his last performance, and stands as one of the best of his latter years.

All Wim Wenders's films (apart from an unhappy made-to-order version of *The Scarlet Letter*) have been about people on journeys from nowhere very clear to nowhere in particular: *Alice in the Cities*, *The Goalkeeper's Fear of the Penalty*, *Wrong Movement*. *Kings of the Road* (*Im Lauf der Zeit*) is a longer trip than the rest—it lasts nearly three hours—but it is the easiest to stay with. Every turn of the road brings something unforeseen and intriguing.

The travellers on this Odyssey are Bruno, a loner who lives in a huge furniture removal van, wandering from town to town servicing projectors in small independent cinemas. Robert (Hanns Zischler) is first seen rather ineffectually attempting suicide, after separating from his wife, and is fished out by Bruno from the river into which he has driven his car. Robert rides a bit of the way with Bruno; and then a bit more. More than anything for want of the resolution to separate, they travel together. Bruno meets a girl; and we have a hint of his failure with women. Robert visits his old father, and we divine something of the failures and frustrations of his past. Otherwise, says Bruno, "no histories". The journey continues; there are encounters, lessons, quarrels. That is the usual nature of Wenders's film Odysseys, but this one ends up a trifle more hopefully than the rest. At the end the two actually do find the determination to split up, and Robert leaves Bruno with the message "Things must change". The spectator almost shares their belief that they will.

It's not easy to convey the peculiar attraction of the film, which lies in Wenders's gift for highlighting the oddity of a chance roadside incident, and his ability to provide a landscape for his lost souls. The setting he has chosen—the dispirited lands along the East-West border; the wastes of sand dunes and quarries, with their abandoned and inexplicable industrial structures; above all the mausoleum world of once-prosperous cinemas now empty and dirty—seems a proper background for the spiritual disorientation of men in retreat, like Bruno and Robert.

The cinema provides a continuing metaphor here. At the start an old man (apparently a real-life character) recalls the great old days when he hired extra musicians to play for *Ben Hur*, and then the difficult times that followed. At the end a woman says she keeps her cinema ready to reopen, just in case. . . . You know, though, that she will never reopen, any more than Bruno will *really* change. Wenders's view of his Germany is not an encouraging one.

The Grand Magic Circus is funny and exhilarating on stage, but not, alas, in *The Gatekeeper's Daughter*, which is a speculation on what silent comedy of the Max Linder vintage would have been like if it had been bawdy. The period style is quite wittily caught, and for a few minutes the idea of the silent comic having to cope with huge, naked ladies, and the fat villains sporting Old Comedy phalli is intriguing. But both the fun and the filth pretty soon lose their savour.

The National Film Theatre is now presenting an overdue tribute to one of the most attractive and eclectic artists in the story of the cinema, Albert Cavalcanti, who celebrated his eightieth birthday on February 6.

Cavalcanti has personally *been* a good deal of the story of the cinema. He was born in Rio in 1897. Evidently a precocious lad, he had already been expelled from law school before he was 16, and was packed off to Europe to study architecture. By 191[illegible] he was working as an architect in Paris. Architecture and interior design brought him into contact with the so-called "First Avant-garde" of the French cinema. Already in 1923 he was designing Marcel l'Herbier's *L'Inhumaine*. In 1926 he directed his first film *Rien que les Heures*, an impression of a day in Paris. Though it was full of the tricks and tics of the German and French avant-garde film-makers of the day, the film can be said to have inaugurated the notion of documentary which John Grierson was to develop in Britain in the 1930s.

Disillusioned with his career in France, Cavalcanti came to London to join the British documentary group; but Grierson and he—both powerful but very different personalities—did not hit it off for long. Cavalcanti was clearly much happier with Michael Balcon at Ealing, producing and directing feature films whose titles are richly evocative for a whole generation: *Champagne Charlie*, *Dead of Night*, *The Foreman went to France*.

After leaving Ealing in the late Forties, Cavalcanti became a wanderer, making films in Brazil—where his plan to revive the industry was aborted by political pressures—in Austria, Italy, Romania, Britain and (for television) in France. The NFT retrospective will include an autobiographical compilation *One Man and his Cinema* which Cavalcanti has just completed.

David Robinson

Lucia Popp in three roles

Orchestra of St John's/ Lubbock
St John's

Stanley Sadie

John Lubbock chose his Mozart programme happily on Wednesday: music of various periods, various moods, various idioms. At the centre of it he had Lucia Popp to sing three arias, in the guise respectively of Zerlina, Susanna and Idamantes.

Whatever she does, she does winningly. Her Zerlina, in "Vedrai carino" was beautifully scaled emotionally, shapely and expressive of phrase, sweet and glowing of tone. Her Susanna in "Deh vieni" was done with a delicious hint of sensuality to her almost lazy phrasing, in her inclination to lean on each note and to abandon it only reluctantly. With a voice like hers, anyone has a right to reluctance.

Her Idamantes was a rather different matter. It was originally a castrato part, but Miss Popp's aria was written for the 1786 revival and is presumed to be for a tenor. Mozart, mysteriously, wrote it out at soprano pitch, and sopranos have naturally claimed this piece, which anyway sits uneasily in its context. Certainly it sounds gorgeous with the soprano and the solo violin intertwining. Richard Deakin in the violin part provided a mixture of the properly showy and the decently self-effacing, and phrased it nicely. Miss Popp produced her richest and silkiest tone, leant affectionately and expressively on the appoggiaturas and chromatic notes and brought to her phrasing a new breadth, apt to an *opera seria* hero.

Mr Lubbock let us hear his wind section and his strings separately before bringing them together. The C minor wind Serenade was never quite in focus, the balance middle-heavy, the tempos often too slow for this urgent work to acquire due momentum. The little string Divertimento K138 was over-refined, lacking in youthful high spirits and in warmth.

Sometimes Mr Lubbock sacrifices clarity to expressive shaping and things go awry, as happened in the slow introduction of Symphony No 39. But the symphony's straightforwardly vigorous music went well; and its ideas were often neatly characterized. Yet still there were odd or artificial things, and still he never quite managed to weld the music into a continuous whole. I wonder if he quite appreciates how difficult and how elusive Mozart can be.

Belgrade Piano Trio

Purcell Room

Joan Chissell

Beethoven's Archduke and Tchaikovsky's A minor trio were separated by a contemporary novelty in the programme chosen by the Belgrade Piano Trio for their return visit to London on Wednesday. The three Yugoslav musicians (Alexsandar Pavlovic, Viktor Jakovčic and Andreja Preger), all professors at the Belgrade University of Arts, have played together for 13 years and approach music in the same direct and unassuming way.

Violin and cello tone took a little time to warm in the Archduke. The pianist in his turn did not immediately come to terms with Purcell Room acoustics: his *fortissimo* easily grew strident. In their unhurried first movement they were not really caught up in the music's natural flow. But the Andante's sentiment thawed them. Conversational exchanges could scarcely have been closer towards its end, and there was much lively interplay in the finale.

In Tchaikovsky's lengthy Op 50 they faced up to the first movement's grief with bite and strength even if not with sumptuous tonal bloom. Sparing in use of vibrato, the strings were a little dry for music so ripe. In the ensuing variations they were much more beguiling. Violin and cello at once made melody glow in the first two variations and, though the pianist was not quite equal to the sprightly demands of No 3, he coaxed suggestive sonority from the keyboard in subsequent numbers such as five and nine. All players danced their way through the waltz and the mazurka before reminding us again of the work's elegiac import in their heartfelt ending.

The novelty was "Ritrovari per tre—Espressioni notturni" by a fellow professor at the University, Petar Bergamo, written for them in 1974. It was a brief, evocative essay in atmospheric sonority which without actually sounding like Bartok still suggested that that Hungarian's night music, insects and all, could have been Bergamo's inspirational source.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

Bernard Levin

Perhaps there's more in this percussive instrument than meets the ear

I have discussed more than once the gradual change in musical taste that comes with the passing years, a change which is not so much from one composer or musical style to another (like the post-adolescent outgrowing of Tchaikovsky), as a change in the relative attractiveness of different musical textures. Chief of these gradual tiltings of the balance of musical satisfaction is the increase in the appreciation of chamber music and the concomitant slackening of the hold of the symphonic repertoir. (Strictly speaking, this is the second in importance of the changes, not the first, which of course is the infinitely extendable devotion to Mozart. But I hope that is taken for granted; if it isn't, I offer you a story of Bruno Walter sent me by a reader after my last column on the subject. It seems that Walter was asked which composer gave him the deepest satisfaction to conduct, and he began to expound upon the varying qualities of Beethoven, Wagner, Mahler, Bruckner. "But maestro", said the astonished fan, "what about Mozart?" "Ah, so", said Walter. "Mozart. I thought you meant the rest.")

> 'I still cannot quite shake off the feeling that the piano is an invention of the devil'

This shift of emphasis takes place gradually, of course; and in some of us it goes farther than in others. As I have also disclosed, it is now as much as I can do to drag Muller to the *Eroica*, and a proposal the other day that we should go and listen to a couple of Rachmaninov piano concertos had him screaming for mercy. To any number of quartets, though, he will come like a lamb, and when I suggested for our winter series the performance by Alfred Brendel of all 32 Beethoven piano sonatas in a series of seven recitals, he leaped at it, and was shortly afterwards to be seen telling renowned film producers and powerful television executives, hungry for his script-writing services, that he might be able to fit them in towards the middle of the month after next.

It has proved an immensely rewarding experience. Mind you, I still cannot quite shake off the feeling, which I have long had, that the piano is an invention of the devil, that the principle on which it works—the thumping of taut wires by hammers—is against nature, the only proper means of producing sound from taut wire being either the one used by the pre-pianoforte keyboard instruments, in which the wire is plucked, as in hand-held equivalents such as the lute and guitar and their relations, or the version employed by the strings-and-bow instruments, in which it is caressed. That which is hit is, by definition, a percussion instrument; *viva* Stravinsky for whom the piano was just that. So even the most beautiful of solo piano writing—the Schubert sonatas, say—leaves my inner ear affronted by the ugliness in some of the infinite series of concentric overtones any note on the piano produces (if you are by now becoming convinced that I am crazy, go and strike the first black key from the right on the next piano you meet, vigorously and several times, and see whether you do not come away feeling that there is something in what I say, even, indeed, if you do not find that you have unaccountably contracted toothache.

All the same, I have not thought such things while listening to Brendel playing Beethoven, or more precisely to Beethoven being played by Brendel. (It is not quite the same thing; I remember observing, after a Beethoven recital by Serkin a few years ago, that that sort of playing makes one think not "What an incomparable pianist" but "What a marvellous composer", and I felt much the same, *mutatis*—as you shall learn—*mutandis*, with Brendel). Circumstances obliged me to miss two of the seven evenings at the QEH (including the one with the *Moonlight*—but then, Muller had to miss the one with the *Waldstein*), but 23 of the peaks in that astounding range of musical mountains I shall have heard (the last of the series is on Monday), together with encores *ad lib*, for the pianist, though most of the evenings have consisted of five sonatas (too many to digest at a sitting), has been unfailingly generous when they were over.

Brendel is an amazing fellow. He comes on to the platform looking as though he has just remembered not only that he left the gas on without lighting it, but that there was a candle burning in the kitchen as well, and he sits down as though expecting a policeman to leap out of the instrument and arrest him. But never did man so falsify the words of the old ditty "It takes a worried man to sing a worried song", for the heartsease that his playing provides is as full, rich and consoling as could possibly be imagined; the instrument has sung for him like a choir of nightingales, together with proportionate numbers of larks, robins, thrushes and blackbirds.

I judge—I cannot help judging—any pianist playing Beethoven against my youthful memories of Schnabel, just as I judge one playing Mozart against the equally absolute standard set for me years ago by Edwin Fischer. And I find it interesting that the two pianists of today who are respectively outstanding in these two composers—Brendel for Beethoven and Barenboim for Mozart—are as far removed from the spare classical purity displayed by the two earlier masters as it is possible to be. The sheer grace of Barenboim's Mozart is enough to make you cry; but the most interesting reflection it provokes is that it could not have been quite *like* that if the pianist had been born a couple of decades earlier. Just as there are styles in acting that change with the years, so that *Hamlet* not only *is* not played today as it was in, say, the fifties, but *cannot* successfully be, so there are similar effects wrought by time in musical performances (this truth can be seen demonstrated at its most obvious, of course, in operative production); Barenboim *is* as much of his era as was Fischer of his—and if it comes to that, does Ashkenazy play Chopin like Rubinstein? I think not.

So with Brendel in the Beethoven canon. The conviction he leaves one with is that if he were to repeat the programme the following day it would sound entirely different from beginning to end, yet just as valid. In the *Apassionata*, which he played just before Christmas, the slow movement was a thing of trembling and mysterious beauty; it seemed to be coming from the mouth of an infinitely ancient and moss-grown cave, shining with colours that no human art could reproduce. I felt—and is there a better test of a performer?—that I had never heard it before. And this is what I have felt with almost all the mightiest of those mighty works—the *Hammerklavier*, the Waldstein, the E minor; they sounded freshly coined to my ears—indeed, they sounded as if they were fresh for the pianist, too, as though he was coming to them for the first time.

In a sense, he was, which is why Brendel is so compelling a musician. For not only is nothing taken for granted, nothing perfunctory or unfelt; everything seems thought out from first principles, and everywhere there is a suggestion of surprise in the playing—so *that's* what Beethoven meant!—which has made me feel that player and audience were sharing a series of discoveries. To make discoveries in a familiar land; that is what art is. To make them in the company of Alfred Brendel; that is art and pleasure, too.

Starting tomorrow, the first real mov[e] to strike at Labour's left wing

The most important development now in Labour politics is the way the centre and right of the party are seeking to mobilize their strength. When they were being savaged by the left at the Blackpool conference last autumn two things were evident: that the battle was largely going by default and that the much trumpeted concordat between the union bosses and the Government was of strictly limited value.

The trade union leaders would give their backing to the social contract and would do whatever was required to keep the Government in being. But that was all. The understanding did not extend to supporting the Prime Minister and his closest colleagues in their political battles within the party. That is why Mr Norman Atkinson found himself treasurer of the party, why a left-wing majority was elected to the National Executive Committee and why so many critical resolutions were passed at Blackpool.

The old alliance that existed before the emergence of Frank Cousins, by means of which the leader of the parliamentary party was sustained by right-wing union leaders, had not been restored. This did not mean that the Government's policy was immediately threatened: the support that the unions did offer was sufficient for that purpose. But the accumulating evidence of left-wing influence—a rebellious NEC and constituency pressure against a number of right-of-centre MPs, as well as the Blackpool shambles—has undermined the party's position in the country and threatened its long-term stability. Unless Mr Callaghan's attitude was to be one of *après moi le déluge*, something had to be done.

To be effective any campaign of recovery from the right has to be waged at a number of different levels. The most important of these is at the top to restore the old alliance with the union bosses in its fullness. The parliamentary leadership is always liable to be in trouble with the party in the country, given the nature of the party's constitution, unless it can depend on the block votes of the major unions. So Mr Callaghan and his aides have been having discussions with the purpose of persuading union leaders to lend their support in the intra-party battles.

The principal objective is to switch the majority on the NEC. It is calculated that this will take more than one year. To persuade the unions to make any big changes in their voting for the trade union section of the NEC takes some doing because there are so many longstanding obligations of one sort or another.

But union votes are also decisive in the women's section where four out of the five now elected are left-wingers. It is here that attention is directed. The idea is to concentrate on knocking out Miss Joan Maynard and Mrs Renee Short this year. That would not be enough to change the balance on the committee, but it would be a useful start.

The parliamentary party should on the face of it give little anxiety to the right and centre. There has never been a left-wing majority in the PLP; the Manifesto Group was set up two years ago to counteract the influence of the Tribunites in the Commons, which it has done with some success; and even if a few right-wingers were hounded out of Parliament by their constituency zealots that would still leave the balance virtually unchanged.

But politicians are not always noted for their dauntless courage and surprising things can happen when they feel the tide going in the opposite direction, especially when they know that there is only a limited amount that their fellow MPs can do to protect them in their own constituencies.

It has been obvious for some time, therefore, that some rallying point needs to be found for right and centre members of the party in the country if the pressures of the left are to be resisted. The Social Democratic Alliance set out to do that, much to the horror of the Manifesto Group who never had any confidence in the SDA. Now two leading Manifesto members, the secretary, Mr Ian Wrigglesworth, and a vice-chairman, Mr John Cartwright, are organizing a meeting in London tomorrow to try to do the job more effectively.

This is not a Manifesto initiative—the group has always been careful to restrict its activities to Westminster—but, though rumblings of disquiet have been heard from some members, at its meeting on February 9 the group formally welcomed the calling of tomorrow's meeting. It is to be chaired by Mr William Rodgers, the Minister of Transport, who is still remembered as the organizer of the Campaign for Democratic Socialism which recaptured the party for Gaitskell.

But the present operation had an inauspicious start with news of the meeting being disclosed prematurely. That came from sending an invitation to a Tribune supporter, Mr Andrew Kennedy, chairman of the party's East Midland's regional council, in the belief that he was a kindred spirit.

Yet while there has been a touch of farce about the opening moves, this is a serious and potentially important development. Between 100 and 150 people have been invited, principally Labour councillors but also constituency officers and local trade union officials. They will have to choose between a number of options, ranging from setting up a permanent organization of some sort—assuming that the money could be found—to doing nothing.

There are a number of dangers in an enterprise of this nature. The first is that only a derisory number of people will turn up. Presumably that is why the organizers did not wish to publicize the meeting in advance: a turn-out of fewer than 50 would be a distinct anticlimax that would damage the morale of the moderates. So would it if the meeting cannot agree to do anything.

There is the opposite risk of doing too much. In a party that abounds with conspiracies, and therefore with suspicions of conspiracy, it might well be counter-productive to set up [a full-] blown organization with branch[es in the] country on the Tribune model.

What is needed is a means [of rally]ing the right and centre in th[e country] by making people of that p[ersuasion] realize that they are not alo[ne. The] psychological is as importan[t as the] practical effect. For that re[ason the] publication of a regular b[ulletin] would seem to be an option t[hat would] stand a good chance. Now, a[s in the] past, this has been shown t[o be an] effective means of providing [a rallying] point for people of similar vi[ews;] perhaps there will be a *Moder[ate Ten]dency*" to rival the ... "tendency".

How good then are the ch[ances of] a resurgence of the right and [centre?] Much better than might be [supposed] from all the reports of the left. In any major party there mu[st] be a considerable hidden adva[ntage for] those who would keep it fro[m going] too far away from the broad m[ainstream] of public opinion. There is ce[rtainly a] weird mixture of motives w[ithin the] party, but Labour supporters [are not] oblivious of the need to win [elections.] Nor are trade union leaders a[ll] extremists with no practical se[nse.]

But much will depend in t[his field] as in so many others, on what [happens] to the economy. The emp[hasis at] tomorrow's meeting will be on [provid]ing support for the Gove[rnment's] policies. But what if these are [seen to] have failed by the time of [the next] election? Will the right then [be seen to] have fought a gallant cam[paign in] defence of positions that mos[t] people will have to regard, r[ightly or] wrongly, as indefensible?

The moderates have most [certainly] got to fight the organization[al battle,] but their success in that [will be] influenced partly by the Gove[rnment's] record and partly by their own [ability] to develop a distinctive philos[ophy for] the years ahead.

Geoffrey S[...]

Are examinations the right way to see whether schools are doing their job?

The great debate has come full circle for three grand septuagenarians of English education. They are: Lord Eccles, the longest-serving and, with the possible exception of Lord Butler of Saffron Waldon, the most far-sighted education minister we have had since 1944; Lord Alexander of Potterhill, general secretary of the Association of Education Committees since 1945, and who until 1973 was the most effective voice in English education, and Sir Ronald Gould, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers (1947 to 1970), the architect behind the ascendancy of Britain's largest teaching union.

In recent separate interviews with *The Times* Lord Eccles recommended the creation of a "think-tank" for the Department of Education and Science; Lord Alexander advocated formal testing of children aged eight, and a return of the 11 plus examination (not for selective purposes) and of the Schools Certificate for children aged 16; and Sir Ronald warned that a return to formal testing would re-open old wounds and would be bitterly resented by the teachers. He called instead for priority to be given to teacher-training.

In 1962 Lord Eccles proclaimed in a remarkable speech in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, the setting up by the department of its own study group on the curriculum. The decision was acclaimed by *The Times Educational Supplement* as a historic move towards a French centralist system of education. Sir Ronald was reported in *The Times* as welcoming the idea as one that would not do any harm. Two months later Eccles went out in the "night of the long knives". The study group disappeared with him. By the time Sir Edward (now Lord) Boyle had settled in at the ministry, nothing was heard of it, and all the talk was of a Schools Council.

Fifteen years later Eccles' plan has come back into vogue. Last autumn a parliamentary select committee castigated the Department of Education and Science for not having a proper research unit and poured scorn on the idea of the then permanent secretary that the research role should be carried out at the end of the day by civil servants with their thinking-caps on. Following this report Mrs Shirley Williams announced the setting up of a departmental study group to look at public examinations in the sixth form. For the National Union of Teachers this is the thin end of the Eccles' wedge, particularly as she is also trying to get the Schools Council more under her thumb.

Over China tea and buttered tea-cakes in the House of Lords the other day, Lord Eccles did not recall that his research plan had aroused opposition from teachers.

He told me: "My plan was to stop the inspectorate altogether. We did not need them any more; the local authorities could carry out their own inspections of buildings. I wanted the 400 inspectors taken out of the building and made into a proper research and development branch for the whole education system. They had all been practising teachers and had travelled around the world and the country looking at schools and colleges. I did not want my research and development branch full of educational pundits—professors with bees in their bonnets. In my experience they never gave anything but bad advice."

Lord Eccles is bluntly scathing about the Schools Council, the Government's advisory body on the curriculum, which in 1965 replaced his idea. He said: "It has all the faults of a body on to which people are put because they represented somebody or other. You cannot get policy made by people who are always looking over their shoulders to see what the people they represent would think."

He believes that the doubling of the numbers in the teaching profession has raised its overall incompetence to a point where the general public can no longer have confidence that they can be left to do the job. The National Union of Teachers itself is run by run-of-the-mill teachers.

"Somebody in authority" he said, "has to have some say over the degree to which the education system does service the obvious needs of society. I do not know of any big industry which can get on without a research and development department."

The Schools Council, however, neatly fits Lord Alexander's philosophy of balance in the control of the education system between central government, local government and the teachers. "It should be the most important instrument for the development of the operation of the education system." He sees it as the proper research unit.

Lord Alexander said: "There is a real danger that the Government will interfere too much. In the past the teachers may have been unreasonable, but now the Secretary of State may be unreasonable. At the moment the Government have decided they must prescribe comprehensive schools. They are supported by consensus opinion. They are wondering whether they should prescribe minimum requirements relating to some organization—if not all organization—of the curriculum. This is open to argument. When in 1944 they prescribed minimum hours for religious education a week, there was not a school in England which disagreed with that. Now if they laid down three hours a week for English and mathematics it would be nonsense.

"Some schools need to teach more; others need to teach less. Teaching staff must be left free to decide largely what to teach and how to teach it. It is a very difficult thing to apply a common core to all children in all schools. There is a general consensus that the teaching of reading, writing and numbers must be taught in all primary schools. When you start talking about prescribing standards it is nonsense. Standards for whom? If you prescribe a common standard some children won't reach it and others will be held down to a standard which they could exceed without trying."

Sir Ronald Gould's fond memories of Lord Eccles might cool a little if he heard him talking frankly now. Sir Ronald has for the past six years been devoting a great deal of time to looking after garden and home in Southgate, North London. "I don't get very bitter these days", he said, "but my hackles do rise occasionally when I read some of the things they are saying about the standards of teachers today."

Conceding that some bad apples had landed in the teaching barrel, he said the fault lay mainly with the department for allowing untrained teachers, sometimes with no "O" levels, to enter the profession, and with the inspectorate who encouraged them to practise absurd educational nostra which substituted activity for basic learning.

But on central control, he said: "I don't like the control of education being in a limited number of hands. I don't want to see either examinations or the Schools Council controlled by the Government. This would be a very retrograde step. It is rather remarkable that this suggestion should come from a Labour Government. When Eccles raised the question of a curriculum group some of the Labour members rais[ed their] hands in horror. Inde[ed Dame] Marjorie Mackintosh (c[hairman] of the Inner London E[ducation] Authority) said it was [a step] towards Hitlerism."

For Lords Alexan[der and] Eccles the way ahe[ad lies] clearly in the direc[tion of] formal testing. Lord A[lexander] wants reading tests for [children] aged eight to see if th[ey have] learnt the basic skills. "I believe that the [11 plus] examination, which wa[s] a selective instrument, [should] be reintroduced b[y local] authorities as a surve[y instru]ment. Secondary scho[ols need] evidence of children'[s abilities] and attainments in En[glish and] arithmetic. It is the c[...] to see whether the s[chool is] doing its job".

Lord Alexander s[ays the] secondary school need[s infor]mation to set the p[upils in] different groups acco[rding to] their abilities in [different] disciplines. He said: [...] no time for all-ability [teaching.] That seems to be goi[ng back] to the board schools of [the last] century. You need a ve[ry good] teacher. It needs i[ndividual] tuition. We cannot [afford] this".

For the benefit of e[...] sixth form colleges an[d further] education, Lord A[lexander] recommends a school [leaving] examination at 16.

To Sir Ronald all [this is] anathema. He said th[e minister] should read Matthew [Arnold] who was busy inspectin[g schools] as well as writing. Arnold warned, Sir Ro[nald said,] that any system of monitoring could only [be estab]lished by "payment [by re]sults". It would lead to teaching for examinat[ions and] nothing else. "You cou[ld] have a very disgruntl[ed teach]ing profession."

Tim [...]
Education Corre[spondent]

The Times Diary

All a matter of interpretation

Business is booming these days for conference interpreters, those linguistic wizards who sit in little glass boxes and oil the wheels of international gatherings. Some 200 of them are holding their biennial conference in London this week to discuss such topics as rates of pay and the ever-increasing number of languages which conference delegates insist on speaking.

One thing the Geneva-based International Association of Conference Interpreters does not need at its conference is interpreters; and business is conducted in English or French, and naturally everyone understands. But because of what the retiring German president, Reinhold Lochner, calls the "linguistic democratization of the world", there is no shortage of work in the conference halls.

"English and French are widely used as international languages, but more and more countries are insisting on using their own tongues, especially in committees of the big international organizations," said Lochner. "Portuguese is going to be a big up-and-coming language, and Chinese and Arabic are gaining ground."

Portuguese is the language of Portugal, Brazil, Angola and Mozambique, and the latter two have been taking a greater part in international affairs since they ceased to be Portuguese colonies. The interpreters are ready for them, at an average fee of between £50 and £80 a day.

Lochner thinks that the time is not far off when the interpreting task at the European Community headquarters in Brussels could get quite out of hand. "If some of those southern European states, like Turkey, become EEC members, we will need teams of 30 to 40 interpreters to handle the EEC meetings, and there are just not the facilities." Interpreting facilities at the Commission headquarters were only improved when the linguists threatened to strike over their cramped quarters.

Work comes from unlikely sources. Jennifer Mackintosh, a vice-president of the Association who is fluent in English, French and German, travels twice a year to interpret at the bi-lingual parliament of Cameroun. The parliament of Papua-New Guinea has four official languages, but unfortunately the Association cannot provide anyone qualified in pidgin English.

Interpreters realize the importance of their craft. Alexandre Bernstein of France, who leads the Association's negotiations on pay and conditions with the United Nations, remarked that his fellow-countryman Baudelaire once said that the world survived on misunderstandings, and that if everyone always understood each other they would never agree.

Lochner thought that the future employment prospects were rosy. "The world, in the past generation, has learned to have conferences instead of confrontations." That may be so, but the recent Rhodesia conference was hardly a spectacular success. "Ah," said Lochner philosophically, "But they did not have interpreters, did they?"

I am reassured to read what Colin Murison Small says in his travel firm's latest cruise brochure: "After three summers of operation our motor yacht Small World I has been seen in a large proportion of Aegean and Ionian Sea ports. This summer we are not breaking new wind."

Impaired

An astonishing exemplar of international co-operation at ground level has come to light in the far east, namely Herne Bay. A visitor who bought a pair of gym-shoes there, the better to enjoy the sands, discovered on close examination that while his right shoe was made in Pakistan, the left one had been manufactured in Malaysia.

When he went hotfoot back to the shop to inquire about this extraordinary lack of coincidence, all he could discover was that the shoes had proved so popular that they were now sold out. He was offered his money, 75p, back.

"This is quite extraordinary", said a spokesman for the National Shoe Retailers' Council. "I have never heard of such a thing before. I wonder if there is something diabolically clever at the back of all this that I cannot quite think of at the moment".

He hurried off to confer with the director-general of the British Shoe Manufacturers' Association in case there was. "We like to afford proper protection to the home shoe manufacturing industry who have suffered unworthily from unfair competition in the past", he explained.

Further discussions, with a trade magazine and two leading shoe importers, allayed fears of an international conspiracy to undermine the British plimsoll. "Many suppliers are having shoes made up in different countries at the same time", said the importers. "They would most likely be imported—in pairs of course—in polythene bags, which have presumably burst open in storage. In marrying the shoes up again, they inadvertently put a Pakistani with a Malaysian. It sounds like a typical warehouse error". Quite a relief.

Unlovely

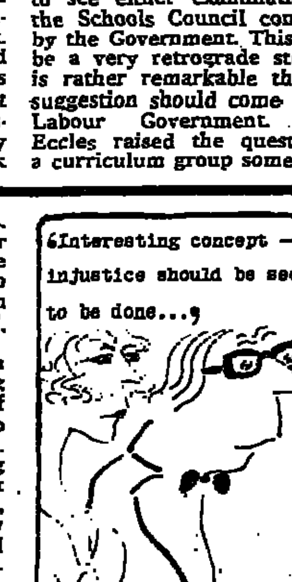
The Merry-makers of British Rail's London Midland region are going on an uncharacteristically gloomy outing. Tucked away in the region's plans to take jolly trippers on happy excursions to seaside resorts and beauty spots all round the country is a scheme for a D. H. Lawrence Tour on the last Saturday in March.

Trippers who take the 9.05 to Nottingham will be treated to a tour of the Lawrence country around Eastwood, where Lawrence described the homes as "small begrimed brick houses with black slate roofs for lids, sharp angles and wilful blank dreariness".

They will be able to visit Lawrence's birthplace, still gas-lit and furnished as it was when Lawrence's drunken father staggered home to upset his fireside bath and shame his wife. At Lawrence's later home, in Garden Road, the original water pump and copper for boiling the clothes survive at the rear but, British Rail apologize, "unfortunately the latter is subject to vandalism".

Nor will they see the Nottingham warehouse where Lawrence translated letters about surgical appliances and contracted pneumonia. That was knocked down in 1960. But they will be able to peer through binoculars—two pairs provided—at Haggs Farm, the home of Jessie Chambers, Miriam in *Sons and Lovers*, and at Eastwood Library they will see Lawrence's headstone.

"In fact", say London Midland, "we did an excursion like this in October last year, and it was such a success that we had to turn people away. The people who did get pla[ces enjoyed] it so much that they a[sked] to know when the r[epeat] would be so that they c[ould tell] their friends".



Witty

Last week I commente[d on the] wit of many of the lyri[cs of the] songs, as performed by [the com]poser Arthur Schwar[tz at an] American embassy party. Wit is generall[y lacking] in modern lyrics aim[ed at an] unsophisticated mass [market.]

Now I find that a [book of] more than 100 lyrics [by Ira] Gershwin, who wrote t[he words] for several of Schwar[tz's best] known compositions, [is to be] published next week.

Gershwin provides a [running] song commentary whic[h explains] many of the technical [problems of] setting words to music [and] makes it sound deceptiv[ely easy.] The commentary is as [witty;] for example, his words [on It Ain't] *Call the Whole Thing* [Off and It] *Ain't Necessarily So.*

He is able to list [a] string of clichés chose[n from a] dictionary of the sa[me and] cheerily note that he [has used] every one of them. [A] phrase that is trite a[nd worn] out when appearing i[n print,] he says, "usually [sounds,] when heard fitted to a[n appro]priate musical turn, re[freshed] and seems somehow [restored] to its original provocat[iveness."] Offers to set this co[mmentary to] music, therefore, will b[e considered] carefully.

From the Western News: "The Monkey S[anctuary,] Looe, Cornwall, need[s a] woman to join family [...] in, all needs found."

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TIMES PAST THE TIMES
New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone : 01-837 1234

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WELCOME FOR MURDER

t Amin's offer of facili- in investigation into the of the Anglican arch- Dr Jenani Luwum, and ters Oryema and Oboth- should be sternly p. The International ion of Jurists are to have said already. everyone undoubtedly that the three men ssinated under cover of accident. The Jurists us have disqualified es for the task. There rs who could hold the : to his word and the evidence. Prob- would not be allowed . The President may de the offer to have g to say. When he s, his complicity in en's deaths may be to be as certain as his y in the hijacking at and in the thousands barbarous killings that regime.

ong presumption must Amin's army security ok the job over after ident had shown his h the Archbishop, who, r bishops, had rightly otesting about the of law and order, the curity of life, and the army murderously the civilian population. bishop had threatened peaceful march from edral supplicating pro- om the military thugs. for him, a mere to him in captured s which purport to reveal a plot against the Amin regime, documents which vaguely incriminated the two ministers (among the first and staunchest of General Amin's supporters) put the army into full cry.

It is possible that the plot, emanating from Ugandan exiles in Tanzania, did exist. Many efforts, all in vain, have been made to get rid of the tyrant. That is not surprising. On his record, it is not reprehensible. But it is inconceivable to those who knew him, as Dr Coggan said yesterday, that Archbishop Luwum was involved.

It needs to be remembered that the vast majority of Ugandans are Christians, Anglican or Roman Catholic. At first General Amin gave them assurances. But for some years he has put his trust in the Moslem minority, about five per cent of the total, and including many expatriates from Palestine, the Sudan and Zaire. They now hold all the key positions, and have a zealot as well as economic interest in terrorizing the majority of all tribes and denominations. As Professor Ali Mazrui presciently noted in *African Affairs* recently, "a pendulum of revenge" has been set swinging, with an appalling prospect, for the family and tribal blood feuds that Amin has provoked are many and deadly, and reach back to Britain.

The President's extraordinary announcement, coterminously with these events, that he proposed to attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' conference and the Jubilee, must be considered in its context. The invitation to him to attend is automatic, a Commonwealth convention. But Mr Callaghan and the Foreign Office must be left in no doubt that the convention breaks down in this situation. Public opinion would find the attendance of President Amin quite intolerable. He would be received with open hostility, for he would be known to be responsible for murder, indeed so far as Acholi is concerned, for genocide.

Any government which honoured him here would be in jeopardy, and his presence might be a death blow to Commonwealth good relations. The Foreign Office must realize that the President's security could not be guaranteed and might be hard to ensure. At the very least the Ugandan exiles here could be expected to harass him with legal actions, which would embarrass him, his hosts, the other guests, and mar the occasion. Since reactions in Africa (especially during a conference in which Rhodesia may again be divisive) at any untoward happening might be incalculable, it is desirable to persuade General Amin that he is personally unwelcome—the invitation is a recognition of the Uganda that was, and everyone hopes will be again. African reactions to such an exclusion may be heated, but they are the lesser evil. Amin has excluded himself from London in June 1977.

ry to see whe
ir job?

GUILLOTINE FOR UNFAIR VOTES

ound to be only a of time before the nt introduced a motion on the nd Wales Bill. Having ts second reading, the king exceedingly slow in committee and its f reaching the statute t be negligible unless a guillotine at some is presents a very choice, however, to to believe in the for a measure of ary devolution in meet the expectations e been aroused in but also believe that dangerous defects in t Bill.

cts are not in general to be beyond amend- mmittee. That is why t to vote for the Bill reading, not simply re of principle but as l legislative action. had indicated that ld not respond to amendments in com- ny narrow spirit, and ned reason to hope cessary improvements made. They have not committee stage has appointment. Not only ne of the Bill's wasted time as but the Government shown the flexibility bsolutely necessary. t a guillotine before been any worth-while concessions on their part would be for the House of Commons to sacrifice their best opportunity to bring effective pressure to bear. Parliament would be handing over its strongest bargaining counter in return for nothing. The Government would be given the means to ram through this Bill without another thought of its defects. That is not the way to do business with Ministers.

There are a number of improvements that need to be made, but only two that must be regarded as conditions for a guillotine: a proportional system of representation as the method of electing the assemblies and improved arrangements for financing them. These are not small matters. If the first-past-the-post system of election is used, with anything like the present division of opinion in Scotland between the three main parties there, it will make a lottery of power in the Assembly. It would be quite possible for one party—for any of the three—to have an overall majority of seats with little more than a third of the votes. If that party was the SNP it would be given a mandate to put the future of the United Kingdom in jeopardy, not by the democratic will of the Scottish people but by a quirk of the electoral process. The proposed system of election directly hazards the unity of the United Kingdom—that is the measure of the irresponsibility of the Government in this matter.

If the proposed method of financing the assemblies were to be put into operation the chances for the SNP to promote political conflict would also be maximized. The possibility would be strong enough even if the SNP were not in office. There are two objections to the proposed system of financing: the assemblies are to be given no revenue-raising powers of their own and the method of determining the size of the block grant from the Treasury is a prescription for semi-public political haggling year by year. If that happens the Union might be put in danger in that way as well.

But it does not need to happen. It is not a necessary consequence of the Bill. Changes could be made in both the method of election and the system of financing without endangering the essential purposes of the Bill. Those purposes remain valid. The case for devolution as a necessary political response to Scottish opinion is as strong as ever. It would be desirable to pass this Bill with the appropriate changes. But finance and the method of election go to the heart of any assembly; so long as the proposals for them threaten the future of the United Kingdom the Government should be denied their guillotine.

NTISTS MUST DEFEND THEIR OWN RIGHTS

tend to be very ver how to react to ressure on scientists in tries. Some feel they ight to meddle in the affairs of foreign ome feel that if there rotest it is better con- vately than publicly. ue with great convic- st pushing protest to where contacts with ntries are broken, or al bodies split. Some judgment on the at there is no way of g objectively the which political policies : regarded as intoler- that scientists should cience and leave poli- e politicians. And of ome scientists have ed with totalitarian and others have been he point of cowardice. lebates, are now becom- r to resolve for two asons. First, it is more obvious to more hat scientific work n checking and cross- across international which means that must be free to pub- ad what others publish, et each other. If they nted from doing this it y they themselves who r even only their own ut the entire inter- traffic in scientific e. For this reason alone it is the legitimate concern of all scientists when one of their number is prevented from working, publishing or travelling.

Secondly, a body of international law is now accumulating which provides an objective scale against which the domestic laws and general behaviour of individual countries can be measured. This has been set out and examined in a new report, *Scholarly Freedom and Human Rights*, published yesterday by the Council for Science and Society in collaboration with the British Institute of Human Rights.

The situation, argues the report, is now radically different from what it was before 1948, when international law was for practical purposes little more than an academic discipline and some people could argue that the conduct of the Nazis towards their own citizens was, while morally abhorrent, legally defensible. Now there is "a tolerably comprehensive list of substantive rules and principles which can be correctly described as 'international human rights law'".

The list includes the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Declaration of the Rights of Scientific Workers, the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and more.

The problem, of course, is how to enforce these rights where there is no international machinery for the purpose. Here the report invokes the remedy of self-help, comparing the state of affairs in the international community with that of early societies where laws and courts had not yet developed.

Thinking along these lines should assist bodies such as the Royal Society and the Royal College of Psychiatrists when debating what to do about the political persecution of scientists, or improper behaviour by doctors, for instance, in east or west. In most cases there are no longer grounds for debating whether to act, only how to act. The report discusses possibilities ranging from private protests through public protests to boycotts and sanctions of several kinds, commenting rightly that public protest is normally much more effective than private representations.

Scientists now have growing power over governments, especially where their services contribute directly to military defence or industrial progress. They should not be too hesitant about using this power to defend human rights.

ech at Essex

Max Morris

isgraceful attempt to pre- eith Joseph being heard University, whoever was bears all the hallmarks ite inspiration. It is yet xample of the campaign the operation of demo- itutions to which I drew in my recent article in s (January 25). Its most pect, however, is that the nion appears to have been to declare the speaker on grata, thus presuming to a political society whom hear and whom it should plied generally this would of course undermine the whole basis of democratic political life in the university.

Knowing the way the Trotskyites operate, I think it also quite likely that the attack was a deliberate provocation (secretly decided upon in the usual way) designed to encourage a counter attack by the university authorities, or even in higher places, on student union autonomy in the hope that this would precipitate a new and major confrontation. There are many who will now be helped more persuasively to argue that student unions are unfit to be responsible for the spending of public money. This will all be grist to the Trotskyite mill. I would expect the leaders of the National Union of Students to understand this and therefore to repudiate immediately both the actions of the student hooligans and the perversion of democratic procedures encouraged by the Essex Union.

One final point needs to be stressed. Though Sir Keith was greeted with cries of "fascist", the fascist methods were in fact employed by his opponents. There is a lesson to be learned here by those on the left prepared to look upon Trotskyism with benevolent neutrality.

Yours etc,
MAX MORRIS.
44 Coolhurst Road, N8.
February 12.

The power of civil servants

From Mr Adrian Ham

Sir, Having worked as Special Assistant to the Chancellor of the Exchequer from March 1974 to March 1976, and having been completely uninvolved in the workings of Sir Harold Wilson's Political Office, it seems to me that I could usefully comment on *The Times* leader of February 15, entitled "Where Mr Haines is Mistaken".

This leader attempted to pour scorn on Joe Haines' revelation of a classic Treasury "ambush", as well as to make various pious, and inaccurate observations on the workings of the Civil Service. It was of course not just Joe Haines and Richard Crossman who believed that the Civil Service had its own political viewpoints that it fought and connived to achieve.

This behaviour is also recorded in the books of Heclo and Wildavsky (*The Private Government of Public Money*); Martin Gilbert's *Biography of Churchill*, Vol II; recent newspaper articles by Professor Fred Hirsch, of Warwick University, and Peter Jenkins of *The Guardian*; Roger Opie in *The Making of Economic Policy*, edited by Hugh Thomas and Anthony Blond; in Sam Brittan's *Steering the Economy*—and so on.

It is particularly amusing that the writer of *The Times* leader in question should say, I quote, "One does not hear any complaints from the Churchills, the Bevins or the Macleods about over mighty officials, although they must have all received advice from time to time with which they strongly disagreed".

Apart from the obvious reason why one does not hear any such complaints, the comment must be made that there is written evidence of at least Churchill's attitude to the Treasury officials—to quote his brilliant memorandum of February 22, 1925, when he was Chancellor, to Sir Otto Niemeyer, a very senior Treasury official:

"The Governor shows himself perfectly happy in the spectacle of Britain possessing the finest credit in the world simultaneously with a million and a quarter unemployed. . . . This is the only country in the world where this condition exists. The Treasury and the Bank of England Policy has been the only policy consistently pursued. It is a terrible responsibility for those who have shaped it. . . .

"You and the Governor have managed this affair. Taken together I expect you know more about it than anyone else in the world. At any rate, alone in the world you have had an opportunity over a definite period of years of seeing your policy carried out. That it is a great policy, greatly pursued, I have no doubt. But the fact that this island with its enormous resources is unable to maintain its population is surely a cause for the deepest heart searching."

I quote this at length since it illustrates starkly how much Churchill realized he was in the hands of his officials. A careful reading of the collection of documents in T170/1499B from the Public Records Office suggested, at least to me, that Churchill did not get out-argued, as the pompous *The Times* leader blandly states. He was politically out-manoeuvred and isolated. Not, I agree, "tricked", but then standards have changed since 1925, even in the Treasury.

Incidentally, it is interesting to compare Churchill's profound concern over unemployment with the cavalier indifference of *The Times*, as shown in *The Times* "alternative" strategy revealed last year.

In my experience, the deliberate, calculated, lie or distortion was not uncommon currency in civil servant dealings with Ministers. Since Ministers are not responsible for major appointments in their own departments, it is of course very difficult for them to do very much about this kind of thing. In fact, one of the greatest sins it appears that a Permanent Secretary can commit is to let his Minister in on some confidence concerning official business passed on through the "unofficial" Permanent Secretaries' network.

To whom does their loyalty lie? I often asked myself while in contact with them. The most indicative comment I heard was made by a bright young Treasury "flier", an Oxbridge graduate, of course, at a cocktail party.

"The longer I work at the Treasury", he said, "and talk to the people here, the more I lose confidence in the man in the street." The attitude, expressed quite seriously, seems to me also to be prevalent in *The Times* writings, particularly on economic affairs. The loyalty is certainly not to the ordinary Briton.

In conclusion, one notes that *The Times* leader fails to contradict Joe Haines' description of a classic Civil Service gambit—the late paper to Cabinet or to a Minister, and the "coincidental" pressure, that according to the officials can "only leave one option". Joe Haines has described just one use of this gambit. There were others.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN HAM,
8 Pamlion Court,
Crouch Hill, N4.

From Mr P. G. Drazin

Sir, Mr Kenneth Baker, in the letter you published today (February 16), wrote of the Bourbons in the Treasury and the Mafia in the Cabinet Office. Please tell us when and how they ousted the Mandarins. It is no wonder that some Scots and Welsh want devolution. Meanwhile it is high time that the Treasury was reorganized, so that at least the English were in control of Westminster.

Yours faithfully,
P. G. DRAZIN,
24 Kersteman Road,
Bristol.
February 16.

Charter 77

From Mr George Mikes

Sir, I cannot, for obvious reasons, indicate my source but please take my word for it that this story is absolutely authentic.

A few days ago Pavel Kohout's (who is one of the prominent signatories of *Charter 77*) doorbell rang in Prague. This usually means the police nowadays so Kohout opened the door very reluctantly. He found a group of workers standing in the corridor, all rather sheepish and all holding a bottle of wine. One of them asked if they could come in.

They told Kohout that they were a delegation from their factory and represented many—but certainly not all—of their colleagues. On the previous Friday, when they went to collect their wages, they had to sign two documents. One was the customary receipt, the other a protest and condemnation of *Charter 77*. It was clearly indicated, they added, that unless they signed the protest they would not get the money. So they signed. But they were ashamed of their action and that's why they had come to visit Mr Kohout now. Would he accept their explanation; would he tell them that he understood; and would he have a glass of wine with them and accept the rest of the wine as a token of their admiration for his courage.

Pavel Kohout said he understood and drank the workers' health.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
GEORGE MIKES,
1b Dorncliffe Road, SW6.
February 11.

The future of Mentmore

From Professor Paul J. Korshin

Sir, Mr Simon Houfe is right (February 8) to use the impending sale of Mentmore to call attention to the possible dispersal of John Evelyn's library. But it does neither the Save Mentmore cause nor the future of the Evelyn library any good to prognosticate that their as yet unknown (and, at this stage, still putative) purchasers may be United States institutions with an "impersonal, rapacious style of collecting".

While it is certainly true that museums and libraries in the United States have made numerous purchases at many British sales, today's straitened acquisitions budgets permit little rapacity. Whatever the fate of Evelyn's books, it is likely that most of them will find their way to libraries where, in institutional hands, they would continue to be available to scholars.

In the same way, while it would be tragic if the Mentmore collections should be sold, they have never been available to the public in their present home anyway. One benefit of their dispersal which nobody seems to have noticed would be that some, perhaps many, of them would go to museums in Britain and abroad where for the first time they could be seen and enjoyed by a large audience.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. KORSHIN,
Executive Secretary,
American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies,
Box 310,
Bryn Mawr,
Pa. 19010, USA.

Rockall

From Professor D. M. Mennie

Sir, Ever since the Rockall question arose again, I have been worrying about what the authoritative text of the Irish Republic's claim—in that country's first language, Irish Gaelic, of course—would call the disputed territory. Now Terence Prittie (February 11) has set my mind at rest; it looks like being the term used for Terence Prittie's "Island of the Blest" (more usually "Land of Promise of the Saints") in the venerable Irish translation of the *Navigatio Scti Brendani*.

When it comes to the translation of the Irish claim into the Irish Republic's second language—English—it looks as if "Rockall" will have to be used. But that, alas, has nothing to do with "rock" for it is an anglicization *via* the Dutch sea charts of the territory's Scots Gaelic name, *sgùrr ròcaile*, "pointed rock of screaming", a clear reference to the crying of the sea birds that fly around it.

The word *ròcaile* is one of a group of Scots Gaelic words derived from Old Scandinavian *hróker*, "a rook", a group of which there is no sign in my Irish dictionaries. In other words, etymology proves that the territory was named by the Scots who lived near it, were familiar with it, and succoured the sailors who got wrecked on it and made in their lifeboats for the nearest inhabited land.

St Kildans and Uistmen as these Scots were, they performed the naming in the sole language they knew, which is, of course, Scotland's second one. The territory is thus very much a Scottish off shore island, an integral part of Scotland associated with the life and caritative activity of Hebridean crofter-fishermen.

Surely the Irish Republic will not reject the evidence of Celtic philology! To do so would be enough to make the Institute of Advanced Studies sink into the ground with shame and cause another nasty gap in Merion Square.

Yours sincerely,
D. M. MENNIE,
7 Princes Avenue.
Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
February 15.

From Professor Mark Williamson

Sir, In case anyone takes Mr Prittie (February 11) seriously, may I point out that the nearest land to Rockall is Gob a' Ghaill, on the island of Soay (where the sheep come from) in the St Kilda group? Parts of the mainland of Britain are closer to Rockall than any parts of County Londonderry. The Scottish islands of North and South Uist, Benbecula and parts of Skye, Lewis and Harris (including the town of Tarbert) are closer to Rockall than any part of County Donegal.

Rockall is a long way out to sea, further from St Kilda than York is from London, but nevertheless much closer to the Hebrides than to Ireland.

Yours faithfully,
MARK WILLIAMSON,
The Old House,
4 Fulford,
York.

Higher fees for overseas students

From the President of the National Union of Students

Sir, Your editorial on February 16 reflects the unhealthy pre-occupation of Fleet Street with news on its own doorstep, notably at the London School of Economics. You may not be aware that there have been similar occupations, neither more nor less significant than that at LSE, in at least eight other higher education institutions in the country and at more than one mile's radius of your London offices. In addition, student unions have been raising, by different areas, their bitter hostility to the recent fees increases in almost every university and polytechnic in the country. Not all have occupied, but many have taken some form of demonstrative action. Sit-ins are not "industrial disputes"; student unions are not trade unions and students are not in employment. What these actions, however, reflect is the genuine strength of feeling that exists in the student body against discrimination or any decisions which might encourage racism.

LSE is, however, a special case in one sense only. The spread of its overseas students is quite untypical of the national pattern. Eighty per cent of overseas students in our educational institutions come from "Third world" countries which desperately need economic and educational assistance in order to develop and so improve the material conditions of their inhabitants. Over half the overseas students in this country are doing courses at less than degree level and the overwhelming majority of these, as of those on degree-level courses or higher still, are studying in technical and science-based courses necessary to strengthen the economic infrastructure.

The reason they come here, and to other developed countries, is that there are no adequate educational resources at higher level in their own countries. As we know from our own industrial revolution, educational, and technical institutions grow along with economic development, not ahead of it. In contrast to all this overseas students at LSE are not as technically based as the national picture, they come in much greater proportion from the wealthy industrial world, and they are almost all on very high-level academic courses. Additionally, LSE has tended to see itself as a "youth training ground" for future world leaders and this is not generally the case.

Over the last century British industry has extracted much wealth for our private sector from the countries of the "undeveloped" world. We should now be paying this back in real help. There should be no mistake that the proposed fees changes of Mrs Williams will seriously set back our future international relations and tie us into the noose of economic complacency. And all this is quite apart from the hardship created for society.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES CLARKE, President,
National Union of Students,
3 Endsleigh Street, WC1.
February 17.

From Mr John Burton-Page

Sir, May I reinforce the plea of the Vice-Chancellor of York University (February 15) for abolishing the oversea students' fees differential from the point of view of a teacher of an oriental subject? In this session I have lost one brilliant Indian graduate, a teacher in Delhi University, simply because she could not afford the enhanced fee, and returned home with her PhD uncompleted. And in my undergraduate classes I have, for the first time in 26 years, no Indians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis or Sinhalese at all.

These South Asian students were the life blood of all South Asian teaching, for not only did they benefit from the western training for which they had come to England but enriched the understanding of their British classmates with their own invaluable comments drawn from personal experience and training. In their absence their teachers and their erstwhile fellow-students are the losers.

These students used to come supported by their own savings or by family sacrifices; occasional government-supported students were rarely their equal, and—in spite of official disclaimers—nepotism rather than scholarship often dictated their selection. Oriental scholarship needs, now more than ever, the vitality and freshness of the independent oriental student; it does no one any good to price him out of our university system.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BURTON-PAGE,
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall, SW1.
February 15.

From Mr Roger Buckley

Sir, Your editorial on "How to lose friends and influence" fails to explain how British postgraduates, other than those receiving a government award, can afford universities in the future.

The result inevitably will be a decline in the number of British postgraduates, as the announced fee increases are clearly beyond the reach of all but the wealthiest postgraduates attempting to finance themselves.

Is this what the government wants? Is this what the universities want?

Yours sincerely,
ROGER BUCKLEY,
35 Palace Gardens Terrace, W8.
February 16.

The Runnymede Trust

From Lord Campbell of Eskan, and others

Sir, All your readers concerned with the vital subject of race relations will be aware of the invaluable work of the Runnymede Trust in this field. The Trust has been a voice of objective reason and calm analysis throughout the last difficult decade when determined efforts have been made to turn race into an area of major social conflict.

Your readers may not, however, be aware that Runnymede is in imminent danger of having to close down through lack of financial support. A small number of charitable organizations have given generous help in the past. But active concern about this delicate and increasingly important issue has been confined to a few, on whose resources increasing demands are being made.

Although we do not believe that it is a cause appropriate for a public appeal, we can hardly believe that there are no foundations or organizations who could not combine to produce the £70,000 a year, for three years, needed to enable the Trust to complete at least the present phase of its work.

Yours faithfully,
CAMPBELL OF ESKAN,
BOYLE OF HANDSWORTH,
ADRIAN CADBURY,
†TREVOR HUDDLESTON CR,
P. B. MEDAWAR,
The Runnymede Trust,
62 Chandos Place, WC2.
February 7.

West End parking

From the President of the Society of West End Theatre

Sir, In view of the recent correspondence in your columns concerning South Bank parking, I should like to draw your readers' attention to the problems which also exist in the West End of London. It is not this Society's intention to comment on the GLC's policy of deterring car commuters, but we should like to point out the complex problems facing anyone who attempts to use his car to travel to the theatre or restaurant for an evening out in the West End.

The general reduction in parking spaces, coupled with the refusal to provide more off-street parking and pedestrianization of certain areas, all give the car-travelling public a hazardous task. While London Transport may or may not provide an adequate service during normal business hours, it is generally accepted that the service during the theatre industry's "normal hours" is far from satisfactory.

Surely there is no need to add a parking problem to all the other burdens which are placed on the theatre. Would it not be preferable for the planners to make available the existing off-street car parks at a reduced rate during evenings—as happens in the National Theatre's new car park—rather than to be devising schemes whereby long term parking may be penalized?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CONVILLE,
President,
The Society of West End Theatre,
Bedford Chambers,
King Street,
Covent Garden, WC2.

Human rights in Argentina

From the Director of Amnesty International British Section

Sir, In his article on Argentina in *The Times* on February 10, Andrew Tarnowski conveys impressions about human rights in that country which I feel should be corrected.

Whilst it may be true that reports of killings by right wing death squads "vanished in December", it is important to note that political killings in Argentina also include deaths in armed clashes with the authorities—some of which appear to be one-sided to say the least—and the shooting of prisoners while in transit between prisons, as they allegedly try to escape. These continue in 1977.

Whilst of course we welcome news of detention orders being lifted, we find that some of the 1800 mentioned by Tarnowski have not gone from their detention to freedom at all, but to a different type of detention pending their trial. And these trials, of course, will be by military tribunals backed by special laws with little competition in the world league of arbitrary rule by military dictatorships.

It would be churlish to reject Mr Tarnowski's optimism without good reason; but his persistent theme of government versus guerrillas demands a reminder that the main victims of repression, who compile the 5—6,000 prisoners believed to be held today, are teachers, trade unionists, journalists, doctors and scientists.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SIMPSON, Director
Amnesty International British Section,
55 Theobald's Road, WC1
February 11.

Why April 5th

From Mr W. E. Evans

Sir, The letters published under this heading to date have only concerned themselves with the question *how* this date was arrived at.

I have been looking in vain for someone to answer the original question, namely *why* the practice of ending the tax year on this date has persisted so far into the twentieth century.

One had hoped that possibly some member of the Treasury or Inland Revenue could tell us the reason for our being required to perform the endless and pointless accountancy involved in apportioning our incomes to this date instead of simply entering the figures already standing in our records as at March 31. Does their silence suggest that there is in fact no rational explanation other than that it has been done this way as long as anyone can remember?

For some years my duties included asking other civil servants why they did things a certain way as a prelude to persuading them to do them more simply and efficiently. If there was a valid reason, someone was only too ready to produce it, if only to show how well he knew his job. On the other hand, the answer "It has always been done this way" was an invariable indication that the procedure concerned was antiquated, inefficient and ripe for change. Could it be that by their silence the Treasury and Inland Revenue agree that this applies to April 5?

Yours faithfully,
W. E. EVANS,
Maltings House,
Malting Yard,
Wivenhoe, Colchester.
February 15.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 17: His Excellency Monsieur Robert Vaes was received in audience today by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, Counsellors of State acting on behalf of The Queen, and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Kingdom of Belgium to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness: Monsieur Henri Perdieus (Minister Counsellor), Colonel E. L. Dewulf (Military, Naval and Air Attaché), Monsieur André Vokser (Minister Counsellor, Economic), Monsieur Christian Fellens (Counsellor, Cultural Affairs), Monsieur Roger Martin (Counsellor), Monsieur André Adam (Counsellor), Baron Thierry de Gruben (Second Secretary) and Monsieur Walter Lion (Attaché).

Madame Vaes had the honour of being received by Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness.

Sir Michael Palliser (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs), who had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, was present and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr J. D. N. Hartland-Swann was received in audience by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, Counsellors of State acting on behalf of The Queen, and kissed hands upon his appointment as *British Ambassador at Ulan Bator.*

Mrs Hartland-Swann had the honour of being received by Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips presided this afternoon at a Meeting of The Women's Committee, The Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 17: The Duchess of Gloucester was present at a Fashion Show in aid of St John Ambulance in Warwickshire at the Shire Hall, Warwick, this evening.

Her Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight.

Miss Susanna Cryer was in attendance.

The Duke of Kent, president of the RAF Benevolent Fund, will visit the Duke of Kent School at Woolpit, Ewhurst, on March 3.

Birthdays today

Mr H. L. Beales, 88; Major Sir Harold Bibby, 88; Sir Arthur Bryant, 78; Miss Phyllis Calvert, 60; Miss Kay Hammond, 68; Sir Basil McFarland, 79; Sir Arthur Norman, 60; Sir Gilbert Roberts, 78; Sir Basil Todd-Jones, 79.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. R. Bailey and Miss P. J. Pearson Gregory
The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Sir Derrick Bailey, Bt, of Bluestones, Alderney, Channel Islands, and of Lady Bailey, of Moor Court, Lyonshall, Herefordshire, and Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Pearson Gregory, of Monnington House, Herefordshire.

Mr C. P. Bamford and Miss N. R. M. MacSwiney
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs E. C. Bamford, of Reading, Berkshire, and Nuala, daughter of Major and Mrs J. F. MacSwiney, of Newbury, Berkshire.

Mr J. N. Emary and Miss C. J. Ward
The engagement is announced between Julian, elder son of Mr and Mrs Cyril Emary, of Hooe, Battle, Sussex, and Charlotte, younger daughter of Mrs Margaret Ward, of Sutton-on-the-Forest, York, and the late Mr Philip Ward.

Mr D. M. A. Evans and Miss D. W. Williams
The engagement is announced between David Meurig Ashton, only son of Mr and Mrs J. Ashton Evans, 136 Buckswood Drive, Gossops Green, Crawley, West Sussex, and Dorothy Wheldon, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Williams, Tuhwntirbwlch, Porthmadog, Gwynedd.

Mr D. A. Griffiths and Miss J. Parsons
The marriage will take place on March 5 at St George's Church, Bristol, between David Alan Griffiths, of Meadway Court, Broom Road, Teddington, and Jenny Parsons, of Berkeley House, Charlotte Street, Bristol, and of Albion Chambers, Bristol.

Mr T. Haworth and Miss P. M. Buxton
The engagement is announced between Timothy Haworth, of The Dower House, Chastleton, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, and Pamela, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs T. F. Buxton, of The Gateway, Ascott, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire.

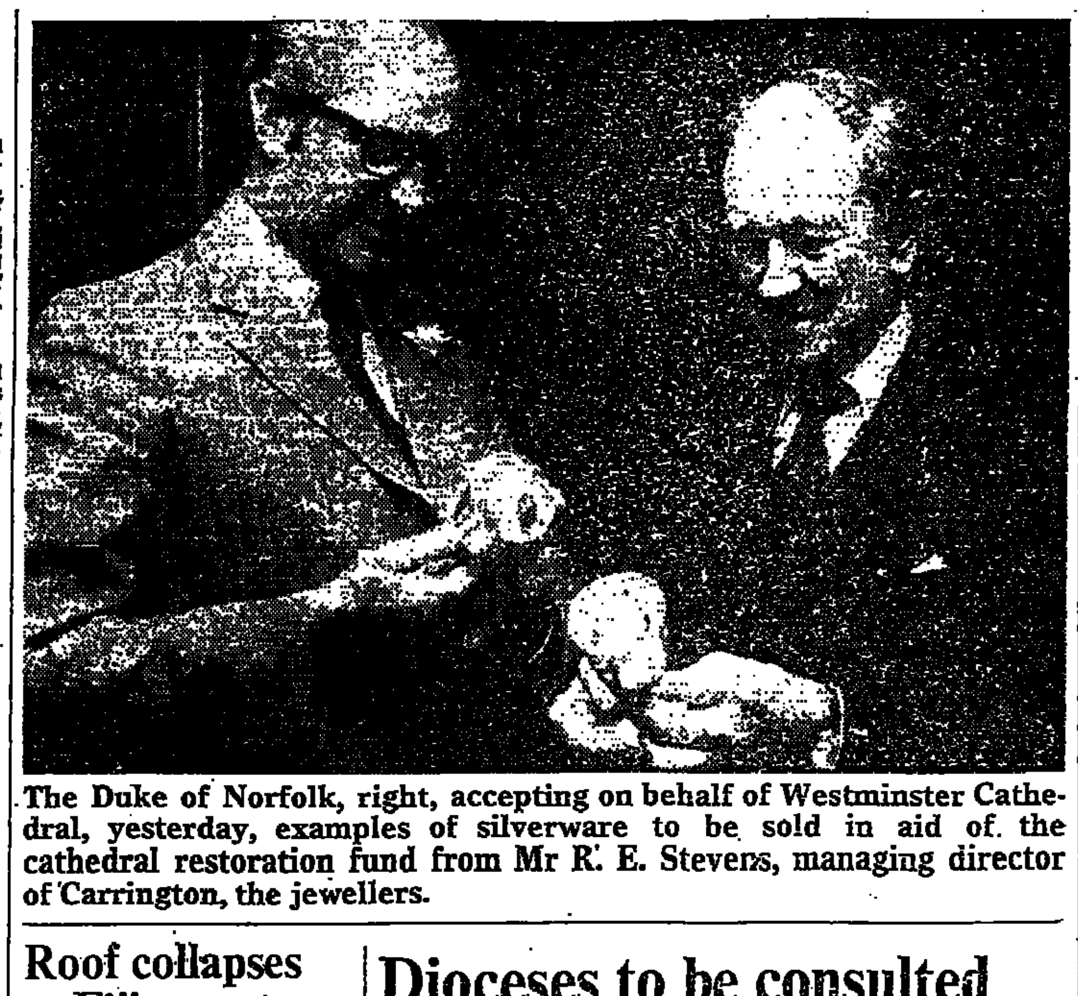
Mr K. W. Roberts and Miss P. J. Carr
The engagement is announced between Kenneth William, son of the late Mr and Mrs E. G. Roberts, of Deva, 15 Hassall Road, Alsager, and Penelope Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. R. Carr, of Norwich.

Mr C. Sidney-Wilmot and Miss C. Grantham
The engagement is announced between Colin Michael Anthony, only son of Mrs Wendy Sidney-Wilmot, Bussana, Veccia di San Remo, Italy, and Air Vice-Marshal Aubrey Sidney-Wilmot, CB, OBE, of Grove Cottage, Great Horkesley, Essex, and Claire Francis Grantham, elder daughter of Mrs W. F. J. Grantham and of the late Bill Grantham, of Merrylees, Staxton.

Marriages

Mr D. Goodenday and Miss L. Chung
The marriage took place on Thursday, February 17, between Mr David Goodenday, of Kingsley Way, London, N2, and Miss Lélene Chung, of Hobart, Tasmania.

Mr G. P. F. Inge and Miss J. Leinster
The marriage took place in London on Saturday, February 12, between Mr George Inge and Miss Joyce Leinster.



The Duke of Norfolk, right, accepting on behalf of Westminster Cathedral, yesterday, examples of silverware to be sold in aid of the cathedral restoration fund from Mr R. E. Stevens, managing director of Carrington, the jewellers.

Roof collapses as Fijians cheer the Queen

Lambasa, Vanua Levu, Fiji, Feb 17.—A group of cheering islanders were hurled to the ground when 50ft of corrugated iron roofing collapsed beneath them as they watched the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh tour Vanua Levu island today. Nobody was hurt.

Enthusiastic scenes greeted the royal couple on their arrival at this second largest island in the Fijian group. A man broke through police lines and tried to shake the Queen's hands.

After being flown here from Suva, the royal couple drove over bumpy roads where more than 10,000 islanders waited to welcome them.

Later the royal couple attended a religious service in which Christian churches joined in prayers with Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Buddhists.

The royal couple later left Fiji at the end of their two-day visit and headed for New Zealand where they are due to arrive on Tuesday for a 14-day tour. Before departure they gave a party for 50 guests on board the royal yacht Britannia.—Reuter.

Dioceses to be consulted on move to church unity

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Church of England will consult opinion in the dioceses before moving further towards the formation of a united Christian church in England. The General Synod decided yesterday that although the church had not been able to complete its assessment of the proposals of the Churches Commission the time had come to bring the 43 dioceses into the debate.

The Bishop of Guildford, the Right Rev David Brown, said it was wrong to be impatient with progress. He denied the interpretation made in *The Times* that the Church of England was lukewarm in response to the Unity Commission's 10 propositions.

"There are some matters so important that the General Synod must seek the mind of the dioceses before it commits itself on their behalf", he said. A complex family like the Church of England must take time to adjust to new ideas.

The 10 propositions, if accepted by the churches, would commit them to recognizing the validity of each other's ministries, if necessary after suitable joint services. The means for achieving that has proved a stumbling block for the Church of England, which is anxious that the tradition of episcopacy should be maintained intact in any united church to which it might belong.

The Bishop of Chichester, Dr Kemp, who had been involved in detailed negotiations with the Unity Commission over episcopacy, said the commission's replies had been disappointing, and the Church of England's alternative proposals had been rejected.

"I think that the reaction to our request for clarification shows that we have still a long way to go", he commented. "We shall not get very far until we have from the covenanting churches a clear and agreed statement of their understanding of ministry and ministerial priesthood."

Brass inlaid bureau of 1740 fetches £4,000

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

A walnut bureau-cabinet with restrained brass inlay dating from about 1740 was sold at Christie's yesterday for £4,000 (estimate £3,000 to £4,000). It belongs to the Channon-Roentgen family of brass inlaid furniture. Christie's suggest that its Germanic style recalls the work of Abraham Roentgen, who was working in London from about 1733 to 1738.

The rest of Christie's furniture sale was devoted to Continental pieces, with a south German walnut bureau-cabinet at £3,500 (estimate £3,000 to £4,000) and two seventeenth-century Italian ebonized cabinets at £3,500 (estimate £800 to £1,200). The sale totalled £105,270, with 4 per cent unsold.

A small carpet sale which followed proved less successful, totalling £15,520, with 28 per cent unsold. The top price was £4,400 (estimate £2,000 to £2,500) for a late-sixteenth-century Brussels tapestry of the Tower of Babel measuring about 11ft by 8ft.

At Christie's South Kensington a sale of dolls and toys made £11,861, with 6 per cent unsold. The top price was £400 (estimate £200 to £300) for a painted wooden dolls' house.

At Sotheby's Belgravia cloisonné enamels brought the top prices in a sale of oriental works of art totalling £49,672 with less than 1 per cent unsold. A pair of Chinese *koros*, 31 inches high, made £3,900 (estimate £800 to £1,500), to A. and F. Gordon and a 5ft Japanese vase, densely decorated with flowers and birds, made £2,200 (estimate £600 to £1,000).

At Sotheby Parke Bernet, New York, on Wednesday a sale of Continental silver made $65,950, with seven lots out of 147 unsold. An early-seventeenth-century German silver-gilt squirrel cup, 25 oz and 10½ inches high, with an Augsburg maker's mark brought $10,000 (estimate $15,000 to $20,000) or £5,848. It was bought by a private collector from London.

The second session was devoted to English silver and plate and totalled £80,409, with four lots out of 214 unsold. A London dealer paid $4,000 (estimate $1,750 to $2,250) or £2,339 for a rare pair of George III fox-mask stirrup cups weighing 18oz.

A jewel sale at Sotheby's in Bond Street yesterday made £156,735, with 15 per cent unsold.

OBITUARY

THE MOST REV JANANI LUWUM

Archbishop of Uganda

The Most Rev Janani Luwum, whose death is reported in another part of the paper, had been Archbishop of Uganda since 1974. He was born in Kitgum, northern Uganda, in 1924. His father was one of the *earliest converts to Christianity* among the Acholi people and was a pioneer Christian worker.

As a young boy Janani Luwum spent much of his time tending the family cattle and goats. He had a lively mind but no opportunity for formal school education until well over the age of ten. When the chance did come he proved to be a brilliant pupil, but shortage of money for fees did not allow him to go on from primary to secondary education. In the meantime he became an unlicensed teacher in a sub-grade school. From the very small salary he earned he saved enough to enter a teacher-training college for vernacular teachers. While serving as a teacher he discovered his vocation and he was accepted for training at what was then the theological college of his diocese at Buwalasi.

After ordination in 1955 he served first as curate at St Philip's Church, Gulu, then as head of the Acholi Archdeaconry Catechists' Training Centre. In 1958 he studied for a year at St Augustine's College, Canterbury. On his [return] he was pastor at Lira-Pal[...] rural dean. From 1962 [he] was on the staff of B[...] Theological College.

In 1963 he came to E[ngland] for a period of further [...] and studied at the [...] College of Divinity, ob[taining] the Associateship of [the] college. He returned to [...] to become Principal at B[...] until the college was [...] In September, 1966, h[e was] appointed Provincial Se[cretary] of the Church of Uga[nda, a] post which he held un[til the] end of 1968.

He attended the L[ambeth] Conference of 1968 as [one of] the Archbishop of Cante[rbury's] Consultants and not lon[g after]wards was elected Bis[hop of] Northern Uganda whe[n the] large diocese hitherto kn[own by] that name was divided a[nd the] former Bishop became [bishop] only of the part whic[h took] a new name.

He was elected Arc[hbishop] and Metropolitan of th[e Pro]vince of Uganda, Rwan[da and] Boga-Zaire in 1974.

A man of courage, [...]tion and wide vision, [...] friendly and outgoin[g, ...] ready to share his c[...] and feelings with other[s ...] an optimism springing fr[om a] deep faith and a keen s[ense of] humour.

GENERAL ALOIS LISKA

General Alois Liska, CBE, DSO, who commanded the Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade during the Second World War, died in *London on February 7 at the* age of 81.

W.B. writes:

British officers who worked with General Liska during the war can testify to the notable part he played in moulding the remnants of the Czechoslovak force which had shared in the French defeat in 1940 into an efficient military formation. In the abnormal conditions of an army isolated from its homeland his simple realism and commonsense were a necessary calming influence which did much at first to steady morale and subsequently to create a force capable of making a genuine contribution not only to the Czechoslovak war effort but to the wider Allied cause.

As a dedicated artilleryman he brought the gunnery element of the Czechoslovak Independent Brigade Group to [a] viable level of proficienc[y. Sub]sequently he command[ed the] brigade when, as the Cze[choslo]vak Independent Ar[moured] Brigade, it besieged th[e Ger]man garrison at Dunki[rk and] eventually accepted the [...] surrender.

General Liska was an [uncom]plicated patriot. He was [a mem]ber of the Czech Leg[ion in] Russia during the First [World] War: he escaped from oc[cupied] Czechoslovakia in 1940 [to play] an active role in the s[truggle] against Nazism; and w[hen in] 1948 after the Communis[t coup] in Czechoslovakia he w[as re]lieved of his post as Co[mman]dant of the War Coll[ege as] "unreliable" he went [into exile] for a third time and liv[ed the] rest of his life in Engla[nd. In] each case he left his hor[...] because he believed he [could] serve it best abroad.

The esteem General [Liska] earned in this count[ry was] attested by the British [decora]tions awarded to him.

DOROTHY BLACK

Dorothy Black (Mrs McLiesh), a prolific journalist and writer of magazine stories, died on February 12.

She was born in Bradford and was related to another Bradfordian, Frederick Delius, the distinguished composer; indeed her second name was Delius. She was brought up in comfortable circumstances as she described in a volume of autobiography *The Foot of the Rainbow* (1961), recalling the piety of the Black aunts and the lively Delius sisters, but money was lost and the family went over the Channel to live first in Germany and then in France. However, the uprooting was a[ll grist] to her mill for she had a[n] eye for human foible a[nd be]haviour which she dr[ew on] freely when she began to [write].

Her career as writer [began] on the staff of *Home Ch[at] ...* later she worked on Northcliffe publications. [Her] employers were not slow [to dis]cover a talent to produc[e well-]turned tales and she be[came a] reliable and successful [profes]sional writer who had [contri]buted to many publicatio[ns, in]cluding *Woman's Jo[urnal], Saturday Evening Post; [Ladies'] Home Journal; Woma[n ...]* other popular publication[s].

MR STAFFORD INGHAM

Mr Stafford Ingham, the Epsom racehorse trainer died on February 16 at the age of 68. Before the war he had considerable success as a National Hunt jockey before taking out a trainer's licence in 1939. After war service in the RAF where he became a Squadron Leader he resumed training in earnest. Among his notable wins were the Cesarewitch in 1953 and 1972, the Cambridgeshire, and the Ebor Handicap in 1972.

Lady Wakehurst, wife of the third Baron Wakehurst, died on February 14. She was Ingeborg, daughter of Walter Krumbholz and she married her husband in 1956.

Lady Charrington, wife of Sir John Charrington, formerly chairman of Charrington, Gardner, Locket and Co Ltd, died on February 8. Sh[e was] Elizabeth Mary, daugh[ter of] Col P. H. Dalbiac, Cl[...] married her husband in [...]

The Rt Rev Ghislain Emmanuel, the first nati[ve] Bishop of Mauritius, has [died at] the age of 48.

Lady Hawke, widow [of] Anthony Hawke, sometim[e Com]mon Serjeant of the C[ity of] London, died on Janua[ry ...] She was Evelyn Audre[y ...] daughter of Major J. N. [...] and she was married i[n ...] Her husband died in 19[...]

Brigadier Francis Borthwick, CMG, DSO, d[ied on] February 12. Born in 1[...] served during the First [World] War gaining a DSO an[d ...] and being made a CMG i[n ...]

Edith Lady Wed[gwood,] widow of the second [Baron] Wedgwood, died on Fe[bruary] 4. She was the daugh[ter of] William Telfer, and sh[e] married in 1920. Her h[usband] died in 1959.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:

Air Vice-Marshal P. M. S. Hedgeland to be President of the Ordnance Board, Ministry of Defence from February 25.

Mrs Jennifer Jenkins, chairman of the Historic Buildings Council for England, to be a trustee of the Wallace Collection, in succession *to Mr C. P. Brocklehurst.*

Mrs Caroline Schwarcz to serve on the Consumer Protection Advisory Committee.

Mr J. S. Cross to be a member of the Central Council for Agricultural and Horticultural Co-operation, in succession to Mr E. Thomas.

Mr N. Howard, chairman, planning committee, GLC, and Mr J. M. A. Paterson, chairman, Bifurcated Engineering, to be members of the South East Economic Planning Council.

Legal

Mr R. G. Greenslade to be Registrar of Clerkenwell County Court in succession to Mr Registrar Warde, now a circuit judge.

Mr G. D. Western, Registrar of Westminster County Court, to be Registrar at Clerkenwell until Mr Greenslade takes up his appointment on April 4.

Mrs Stella Hydleman to be full-time chairman of industrial tribunals for London from March 1.

Dinners

Lord Wigoder, QC
Lord Wigoder, QC, entertained members and guests of British Women's Organization for Rehabilitation through Training at dinner at the House of Lords yesterday evening. The speakers included Rabbi Dr Louis Jacobs and Mrs Renée Soskin, joint chairman of British Women's ORT.

Association of Consulting Engineers
Mr Joseph Grimond, MP, was the principal speaker at the annual dinner of the Association of Consulting Engineers held last night at the Hilton hotel. The other speakers were Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board, and the chairman of the association, Mr K. F. Scott, who presided. The guests of the association included high commissioners, ministers of state, senior officials of government departments, heads and representatives of nationalized industries, public corporations, engineering and other institutions and federations.

Butchers' Company
The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs, were the guests of honour at the annual ladies' livery dinner given by the Master and Court of the Butchers' Company at Butchers' Hall yesterday evening. The Master was in the chair.

Royal College of Surgeons of England
The Hunterian Festival Dinner was held last night at the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Sir Rodney Smith, president, was in the chair and the principal guests were the Lord Mayor of Westminster and the Egyptian Ambassador. Others present included:

Alderman Sir Robert Bellinger, Lord Brock, Lord Carr of Hadley, Colonel J. A. Hunton Carter, Mr A. E. Clatworthy, Mr K. G. Corfield, Mr John Curtis, Mr W. F. Davis, Professor Sir Richard Doll, Mr Michael Fone, Sir Frank Hartley, Mr Philip Henman, Mr R. S. Johnson-Gilbert, Sir Cyril Kleinwort, Mr Joseph Levy, Mr Percy Levy, Mr Walpole Lewin, Mr Henry Lumley, Mr Richard Lumley, Mr David Napley, Mr David Orr, Mr R. H. Owen, Sir John Partridge, Mr J. Michael Pickard, Lord Porritt, Sir John Read, Mr J. L. Reed, Mr Harry Salmon, Sir Thomas Holmes Sellors, Lord Shawcross, QC, Mr Barnett Shine, Professor Sir Charles Stuart-Harris, Mr A. R. Taylor, Mr Selwyn Taylor, Professor R. D. Teare, Mr Bruce Ward, Mr D. J. Watts and Sir Jack Wellings.

Service dinners

RNAS Culdrose
Vice-Admiral A. D. Cassidi, Director General of Naval Manpower and Training, was the guest of honour at a wardroom guest night dinner held at the Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose, Cornwall, last night. Commander J. B Gallagher, RN, president of the wardroom mess, presided.

Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
The annual dinner of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys) was held at the Savoy Hotel last night. Colonel H. T. Brassey, colonel of the regiment, presided.

Aberdeen University Air Squadron
Aberdeen University Air Squadron held a dinner at the university last night. The guest of honour was Air Chief Marshal Sir Neil Cameron. The Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief RAF Training Command, the Air Officer Commanding and Commandant RAF College Cranwell, the Air Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland and the *Principal of* Aberdeen University attended. Squadron Leader R. C. G. Brodie, officer commanding, presided.

Drive against nuclear power development

From Ronald Kershaw
Leeds

A coordinated campaign, called "Energy 2000", against the development of nuclear power is to be launched in Yorkshire in April. A steering committee headed by Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the Yorkshire area of the National Union of Mineworkers, has been formed to organize a conference on April 2 to which conservation organizations, trade unions, county councillors and members of the public will be invited.

In a statement Mr Scargill said the conference would be addressed by MPs, union leaders, county councillors, church leaders and prominent environmentalists. Among proposals submitted for consideration are picketing of trains carrying nuclear waste, a lobby of Parliament, a mass rally in London, local and area meetings and a national competition drawing attention to the cause.

Members of the steering committee include Dr Leonard Paitz, chairman of the Conservation Society and senior lecturer at *Sheffield Children's Hospital, who* is secretary; Mr Norman West, a county councillor and chairman of Highways, South Yorkshire County Council; Jeffrey Baston, chairman of South Yorkshire nuclear action group; and Mr Richard Turner, of the Friends of the Earth organization.

Mr Scargill, a confirmed opponent of nuclear power, has repeatedly given warnings about its development, which he says is totally irresponsible in view of evidence from all over the world of its dangers.

List issued of arts support for tax purposes

By Our Arts Reporter

Tax advantages for private and business support of the arts have been set out by the Department of Education and Science in a note being circulated to interested organizations.

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said in a Commons written reply yesterday that the memorandum would go to national museums, galleries and libraries; local authorities maintaining such institutions; learned bodies and journals, and professional bodies concerned with tax advice.

Copies can be obtained from 38 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8NT, until February 24, then from the Department of Education and Science, York Road, SE1 7PH.

National heritage bodies to which gifts and bequests can be made exempt from capital transfer tax include the National Gallery, British Museum, Royal Scottish Museum, National Museum of Wales and the Ulster Museum.

Treasury-approved national scientific, historic or artistic collections, United Kingdom university libraries and the National Trust are covered, as are the National Art-Collections Fund, Friends of the National Libraries, Historic Churches Preservation Trust and the Nature Conservancy Council.

New literary prizes

Two new annual literary prizes for works on Jewish themes, the *Jewish Chronicle*-Harold H. Wingate Awards, were announced yesterday. One will be of £1,000 for a work of fiction, poetry or belles lettres, and the other £1,000 for a work of non-fiction.

Thatcher call for inquiry into Belvoir coalfield

By Our Political Staff

Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, has committed herself to the fullest inquiry into National Coal Board operations in the Vale of Belvoir before new pits are sunk in south Nottinghamshire.

In a letter to Mr Michael Latham, Conservative MP for Melton, she writes: "Whatever proposals for mining are finally put forward they should be the subject of an inquiry which allows all the arguments to be fully and publicly debated before any decision at all is taken."

With those words Mrs Thatcher has aligned herself with residents in the Vale of Belvoir, who are campaigning to ensure that no pits should be opened without a wide examination of energy policy.

She says in her letter: "I have a good understanding of the problems involved, having held the fuel portfolio when the Conservatives were last in opposition. I also happen to know that part of the country extremely well. I have loved and admired it for its natural beauty and productive farmland, and I am not in the least surprised that so many *people have shown such determination* to protect it."

In a letter to Mrs Thatcher, Mr Latham had quoted the argument of Dr P. I. McDonald, of Aston University, that "there is a good deal of evidence that no market exists for the Belvoir coal".

Fawcett Library

The Fawcett Library is to be transferred early next month to the City of London Polytechnic. Its last day of opening at its present address in Wilfred Street, Westminster, will be next Friday.

Views sought on Schools Council

The review body considering the role, constitution and structure of the Schools Council is seeking opinions on the council's work and development from bodies and individuals with an interest in its activities.

Written views may be sent to the Secretary of the Review Body, Schools Council, 160 Great Portland Street, London, W1N 6LL, by March 25.

Today's engagements

Silver Jubilee Exhibition: "The Queen's pictures", the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, 11-5.

English Folk Dance and Song Society, folk festival, Albert Hall, 7.30.

Lunchtime music: Ann Mackay, soprano, William Shimell, baritone, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Victoria Embankment, 1.10.

Memorial service: Marshal of the RAF Sir Andrew Humphrey, Westminster Abbey, 12.

LSE protest goes on

Students at the London School of Economics voted yesterday to continue their sit-in protesting against fee increases.

Latest wills

£28,221 left for cancer research

Miss Lilian Cowen, of St Anne's-on-Sea, left £28,221 net. She left all her property to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

Other estates include (net, before duty paid; duty not disclosed):

Bate, Mr Cyril Roger John, of Bodmin, farmer £111,289
Brumell, Mrs Ivy Margaret, of Cornhill-on-Tweed £121,392
Chapman, Mr Edward, of Norwich, turf accountant £134,615
Cook, Mr Horace Richard, of Malmesbury £118,846
Elley, Mr Thomas Benson, of Park Lane, London, company director £167,259
Fry, Sir Leslie Alfred Charles, of Petworth, diplomat £43,264
Gage-Brown, Marjorie Phyllis, of Castle Cary £119,258
Grimes, Mr Wilfred Arthur Howell, of Thames Ditton, stockbroker £148,590
Harris, Mr Alfred, of East Blatchington, quantity surveyor £127,370.
Harrop, Mr Henry, of Stanley, co Durham (intestate) .. £150,854
Hines, Mr Herbert, of Folkestone £158,689
Kendall, Mr Clement James, of Thorpe Langton, Leicestershire, farmer £230,186
Kivell, Mr William, of Launceston, estate agent and auctioneer £114,394
Pratt, Mrs Evelyn Emma, of Canterbury £146,306
Thompson, Mrs Florence, of Doncaster £106,545

Episcopal Church in Scotland

Diocese of Edinburgh:
The Rev D. A. B. Jowitt, priest-in-charge of St Ninian's, Edinburgh, has been elected synod clerk and a canon of St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh; The Rev G. Moffat, assistant priest, St Peter's, Edinburgh, has also been appointed Anglican Chaplain to Students, Edinburgh University; The Rev E. F. Love, Rector of St Mungo's, West Linton, retired on February 1; Canon W. D. Cooper, chaplain to the community of St Peter, Walkerburn, retired on February 2; The Rev A. Burn-Murdoch, Rector of St Cuthbert's, Hawick, is resigning in July to take up an appointment in Wales.

Diocese of Glasgow:
The Rev J. A. Burrows, rector of St Ninian's, Prestwick, has resigned on taking up an appointment in Australia.

Diocese of Moray:
The Rev J. H. L. Macleay, priest, Grantown-on-Spey and St John the Baptist, Rothiemurchus, has been appointed a canon of St Andrew's Cathedral, Inverness.

Diocese of St Andrews:
The Rev F. C. Harvey, diocesan chaplain, has been elected a canon of St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth.

25 years ago

From The Times of Monday, Feb 18, 1952

The Ministry of Food announces that the United Kingdom Government have undertaken to buy or to permit the sale in the United Kingdom market, without restriction of quantity, of the exportable surplus of beef and veal, lamb and mutton from New Zealand for 15 years from October 1 next. The ministry's statement said: A joint declaration has been made by Mr S. G. Holland, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, New Zealand, and Major Gwilym Lloyd-George, Minister of Food, in which it is agreed to promote a further increase in the production of meat in New Zealand for the British market. New Zealand increased her meat exports to the United Kingdom from a pre-war average of 260,000 tons to an average of some 315,000 tons in 1945-47. Under the meat agreement signed in 1948 New Zealand promised a further substantial increase and we are expecting as much as 380,000 tons in 1952. New works to produce the necessary fertilizers are being built. Plans have been put in hand for the erection of new freezing works, and action is also to be taken to improve transport and port facilities to handle the additional production.

University news

Oxford
Elections
Brian Johnson Prize in Pathology: 1, C. L. Huang, The Queen's College; 2, A. D. Proudfoot, Balliol College.
ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE: Supernumerary fellowship, Professor J. L. Gowans, FRS, formerly professorial fellow of the college, secretary elect of the Medical Research Council.

Cambridge
CLARE COLLEGE: Professor A. M. Snodgrass has been elected into a fellowship (class C) and J. M. Rutter, MA, has been elected into a fellowship (class B) and appointed college lecturer in music.
EMMANUEL COLLEGE: M. Overton, BA, university assistant lecturer in the department of geography, has been elected into an official fellowship. P. R. Kitson, BA, bachelor scholar of the college, and Rosemary Anne Williams, BA, of Girton College, have been elected into research fellowships for three years from October 1.

London
The following have been elected fellows of Imperial College:
Lord Armstrong of Sanderstead, Dr J. W. Barrett, Mr E. Cutcliffe, Professor Benjamin G. Levich, Emeritus Professor J. D. McGee and Sir Vincent Wigglesworth.

Wales
CARDIFF: Appointments
Superintendent of economic and social studies division of the library: M. L. Breaks, BA (Leeds).
Assistant director of university English centre for overseas students: M. J. Chiles, BA (Wales), MA (Leeds).
Senior lectureships: C. H. Knowles, BA, PhD (Wales), and Nora C. Temple, BA, PhD (Lond), history; R. Attfield, MA (Oxon), PhD (Wales), philosophy; J. G. Evans, BSc (Reading), PhD (Lond), archaeology; D. G. Rhys, BA (Wales), M Comm (Birm), economics; D. A. Wilson, BSc, PhD (Lond), R. J. Breakspere, BSc, PhD (Exeter), and L. A. P. Kane-Maguire, BSc, PhD (Queensland), chemistry; J. A. Bryant, MA, PhD (Camb), botany; W. T. Coakley, MSc (NUI), PhD (Wales), microbiology; I. D. Bowen, BSc, PhD (Wales), zoology; V. Cook, BSc, PhD (Wales) and K. J. Overshott, MSc (Birm), PhD (Wales), electrical engineering; R. D. Jones, BSc, PhD (Wales) and R. D. Walker, BSc (Strathclyde), PhD (Wales), metallurgy; E. D. Pooley, MSc, PhD (Wales), mineral exploitation; Morfydd E. Davies (Owen), BA (Wales), MA (Cantab), Welsh; R. G. Walton, BA Admin, MA Econ, PhD (Man), social administration.
Senior staff tutor: L. D. Allan, BA (Lond), extramural studies.

Leicester
Appointments
READER: Dr R. S. Davidson, chemistry.
DIRECTOR: Dr P. M. Jackson, public sector economics research centre.
SENIOR LECTURERS: Dr N. J. Naftalin, obstetrics and gynaecology; R. F. M. Wood, surgery.
LECTURERS: W. W. Barrie, surgery; Dr L. R. Hartley, psychology; N. K. Maybury, surgery; B. J. Norton, history and social relations of science.

Grants
£13,900 from the Science Research Council for a second project of research into interactive computer-aided design of engineering structures and components, under Professor G. D. S. MacLellan; £15,257 from the SRC for research into continuous damage in high-temperature structures due to unsteady mechanical and thermal loadings, under Dr D. R. Hayhurst.
£20,000 from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit for a revaluation of the KAF-sponsored Communication Foundation for Asia programme in the Philippines.
£18,566 (supplementary) from the SRC for data-handling project for the UK 5 programme, under Professor K. A. Pounds.

Orchestra refuses to play César Franck

From Peter Nichols
Rome, Feb 17

The Santa Cecilia Orchestra in Rome have refused to play a work by César Franck—the tone poem *Redemption*—because, they allege, the music is not worthy of them.

It is normal here for printers to object to newspaper contents and so prevent the publication of an article or of a whole edition of a newspaper. And there has been much written lately of the attitude of translators, who are said to change substantially what an author has written to impose a political bias not present in the original work.

But until last Sunday afternoon, there had been no case of a symphony orchestra deciding that the work of an accepted master was not up to their standards. The members of the orchestra apparently decided at the first rehearsals under the French conductor, Serge Baudo, that they did not feel like playing the work; and the lead cellist explained to the public that there would be no alternative work in the programme.

Audiences may well be wondering what is coming next. Dr Luigi Mazzarella, administrator of the Academy, the concert organization affected—and an open-minded personality if ever there was one—feels astonished at the "paternalistic" behaviour of his orchestra. The work was little known, he says, and there was interest in seeing what the public would think of it. But the orchestra denied the public the chance to make up its mind.

And all this after a period of several years in which Rome's musical public had gradually matured. Two decades ago the concerts organized by the Academy took place at a time, in late afternoon, when only pensioners and ladies of leisure could attend them. A famous example of a concert in those days involved the great violinist, the late David Oistrakh, then at the beginning of his European fame. A New York lady, unable to get into an Oistrakh concert at home, discovered that he was due to play next in Rome. So she telegraphed a friend to sacrifice all to find a ticket, flew to Rome and heard Oistrakh—in a half empty hall.

Now a promising concert produces a great demand for tickets, frequently beyond seating capacity.

Rome has no auditorium. It has two orchestras of standing: the Santa Cecilia and the Rome Orchestra of the Broadcasting Corporation. The first rents a hall; the second performs only to invited audiences.

Dr Mazzarella has lately opened a campaign to meet the real public demand for concerts and overcome the traditional Italian bias in favour of opera. As Sir Ashley Clarke remarked on the radio recently, Italy suffers from having given birth to Monteverdi, who invented the opera.

Science report

Transplantation: Great success with livers

Results from the British research team carrying out liver transplantation have improved dramatically in the past two years so that they now believe that the operation may soon prove more successful than routine kidney transplantation. So far Professor Roy Calne at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and Dr Roger Williams's liver unit at King's College Hospital, London, have collaborated in 60 liver transplants.

The operation is considered only in patients with serious liver illness likely to prove fatal within a few months: 37 of the 60 had some form of liver cancer and 19 had advanced cirrhosis, while four had other disorders, such as narrowing of the bile ducts.

Thirty-five patients had liver transplants between 1968 and 1974; there were 12 deaths within a week of operation and only three patients survived longer than 12 months, although one of them lived more than five years and another is still alive. Since 1975, in contrast, the use of new techniques has eliminated deaths in the period immediatley after operation and 12 of these last 25 patients are still alive.

Much of this recent improvement has come from the use of "beating-heart donors", patients certified as having brain death from whom the liver is removed while the heart is still beating. Once removed, the liver may be cooled and preserved in good condition for as long as eight hours and donor livers have been transported to the transplant unit from hospitals between 35 and 4[...] distant. The second big [...] has been an improvement [in sur]gical technique in which [the gall] bladder is used to join the [...] of bile ducts.

Those recent British res[ults are] comparable to those of the American liver surgeon, M[r ...] Starzl, whose unit has don[e more] of these transplants than an[y other] in the world. The American[s,] however, has concentrated [on the] treatment of children bor[n with] defective bile ducts and con[sequent] severe liver damage.

Liver transplants are les[s likely] than kidney grafts to be r[ejected] by the natural immune system in the experience [of the] King's College and Ca[mbridge] team. Some patients wit[h liver] transplants were able to b[e taken] off the steroid drugs tha[t are] essential for the preven[tion of] rejection of kidney transpla[nts].

Both the British and the [Ameri]can surgeons have foun[d that] rejection accounts for only [...] cent or so of the deaths i[n the] series. It is for that reas[on that] Professor Calne and Dr W[illiams] believe that their results [will] improve still further as [more] donors become available a[nd it] becomes reasonable to off[er the] operation to patients with [poten]tially fatal liver disease befo[re they] become desperately ill.

By Our Medical Correspond[ent]
Source: *British Medical [Journal]* (February 19, page 471).

Union

loose trio in practice yesterday: from the left, Uttley, Dixon and Rafter.

land heartened by Horton's ess for crucial match

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espondent

heartening news for
rugby camp yesterday.
the Moseley lock,
a corneal abrasion
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against Leicester last
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vickenham tomorrow;
a specialist in the
was allowed to train
nd on the Stoop
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ey, the captain, said
at he thought it would
d difficult game, but
y confident about the
iously we've got to
e up front, and the
is going to need a
al courage and com-
everyone involved.
he continued, "that
our kind of positive
are looking at the
France-Wales game

this evening but there's a big danger of becoming too preoccupied with what our opponents will do. We've got to be fully aware of that, of course, but we're not going to forget that the French have got to cope with what we do." He also made the point that France have been playing a similar style of game to England's, so it was not likely to be a case tomorrow of finding out which side could spin the ball around more effectively.

A drizzle persisted throughout the training at the Stoop and, when asked what sort of weather he would like tomorrow, Uttley said that if the rain was coming down even harder he and the lads were likely to have no objections.

England's coach, Peter Colston, said that with two victories behind them, and with the triple crown and championship in their sights, England's approach would be different from what it was a year ago in Paris, at the end of a barren season. He had to admit that he could not see many weaknesses in the French pack, and to hold or beat them up front would require a prodigious effort.

The other Moseley lock, Ayre, joined the training yesterday and so, yet again, did Air Vice-Marshal Larry Lamb, to provide the advice of an international referee. Young spent much of his time behind the forwards at the scrummaging machine, rehearsing moves with the loose trio. At the lineout, some emphasis was put on short throws to Beaumont at the front (England must, of course, seek to counter the extra height of the French jumpers) and in defence against probable French dispositions involving a peel off palmed ball from Bastiat at the tail.

It looks as if England intend occasionally to use Rafter standing off from a 6-man lineout and fed by Cooper with an inside crash ball to draw in Rives and Skréla. The distribution and handling of the backs looked encouragingly accurate. They seem all set to counter-attack, through the wings and the full back, Hignell, if Romeu's tactical kicking should offer the slightest chance.

layers fit

son, Ireland's full-
Charles Murtagh, a
forward, were passed
for tomorrow's inter-
h against Scotland at
Both Wilson and
a fitness test and a
mination before the
ft for Edinburgh.
ured his knee while
is club, CIYMS, last
Murtagh, a new cap,
in training on Mon-

Stronger Middlesex XV

Middlesex have made two forward changes for the rugby county championship final against Lancashire at Blundellsands tomorrow week. Christopher Howcroft, a Wales B lock, comes into the second row in place of Michael Hess, of Richmond, and Andy Ripley, England's No 8, replaces Kevin Bowring of Borough Road College, in the back row.

Both Howcroft and Ripley were originally selected for the semi-final against Warwickshire, but Howcroft had a back injury and Ripley got married on the day of the semi-final. Adrian Alexander, of Harlequins, moves to the flank to allow Ripley to occupy his usual No 8 position.

TEAM: G. Richards (Wasps); C. W. Lambert (Harlequins), A. P. Friell (London Scottish, captain), D. J. Croydon (Saracens), S. Tiddy (Rosslyn Park); R. Wilson (London Scottish), A. J. M. Lawson (London Scottish); R. L. Barlow (Rosslyn Park), G. G. Bognell (Wasps), C. MacGregor (Saracens), C. Howcroft (London Welsh), C. W. Ralston (Richmond), A. Alexander (Harlequins), A. G. Ripley (Rosslyn Park), R. J. Mordell (Rosslyn Park).

cis shows good form PR and England

Fox
respondent

cis, the Queen's Park
former England cap-
only just returned
football after seven
ng to overcome a
injury, is hurt again.
tomorrow's League
Aston Villa, with
rs drew 2—2 in a
all League Cup semi-
second leg tie on
ight. But this time
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Even better news
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Park was that he is
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Cup tie was only
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was one of the
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some ferocious tackl-
coolly and strongly,
his midfield respon-
a result he managed
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was played at an
pace. His stamina
d his colleagues, par-
vies, were delighted
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session that he found

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k it would be wiser
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ess. In the two games
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ether Francis could
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England in the next
tie against Luxem-
embley on March 30.
now seems to have
and if he can con-
arpen his game he
ly return to give Eng-
dfield direction that
badly lacking in his

for someone to control
gland's pace was seen
st the Netherlands,
was only one of a
aults. Francis can do
better than most, and
Villa, who rarely give
us a chance to have
the speed of events,
y acted as the game's

This is not to overlook the fact that Villa should have avoided the need for a replay at Highbury on Tuesday to decide who will meet Everton in the final on March 12. "We had our chances", Ron Saunders, the manager, said, "but I've no complaints. This was a wonderful advertisement for British football."

David Sexton, the Rangers' manager, said: "We fought back well, after twice falling behind, but we weren't too good in attack. It will be a different story at Highbury. There we'll attack all the time."

It was Mr Sexton's timely substitution of Hollins with Eastoe that ensured there would be another chance for Rangers. Eastoe, still with only 12 first team games behind him, scored the second equalizing goal in the second half of extra time. Webb, who always seems to be twice the player on cup occasions, provided Eastoe with the crucial pass, but afterwards he said he might not be able to play in the League game at Villa Park on Saturday because of a cut leg.

Mr Saunders, hoping to lead out his fourth League Cup final team in five years, also gambled when he decided to include his leading scorer, Gray, who was not 100 per cent fit. Gray had a fine match and was so engrossed in his task that he turned down Mr Saunders's offer to replace him for extra time.

Both managers were more concerned about the likely state of the Highbury pitch after a match has been played there tomorrow than in the possibility of the tie being spoilt by acrimony engendered in Wednesday's meeting. McLintock was so infuriated by a wild tackle from Cropley that the argument continued after the match, and Clement was fortunate not to have his name taken for persistently fouling Little.

The replay further aggravates Rangers' league fixture problem. They were to have met West Ham United on Tuesday night. This game will probably be played on Tuesday, April 5.

Aston Villa are likely to call for a proper "toss up" rule after the confusion on Wednesday over the ground on which the League Cup semi-final match with Queen's Park Rangers is to be replayed. After the 2—2 draw in the second leg at Villa Park, the clubs had to toss a coin to decide where the game should be played—Coventry, if Villa won; Arsenal, if Rangers were successful.

The club chairmen, Sir William Dugdale (Villa) and Jim Gregory (Rangers) both claimed to have called "heads" in the uproar immediately after the game. League officials ruled that Rangers were the winners.

strong may decide to Warboys at Fulham

arboys, the Bristol
er who turned down
United and Stoke City,
ersuaded to help Ful-
relegation to the third
signed yesterday for
makes his first ap-
gainst Wolverhampton
at Molineux tomorrow.
have not won in 10
nce Bobby Campbell
Alec Stock as team
nd Warboys will be
o improve a dismal
nly eight goals in the
ague games. "Natur-
leased to sign him and

he definitely plays on Saturday", Campbell said. "Signing players all depends on the circumstances and, as things stand, Alan ought to do us a bit of good".

George Armstrong, Arsenal's unsettled winger, may also join Fulham today for the same fee, £30,000. Arsenal's manager, Terry Neill, said last night: "I spoke to George today and he told me he is almost certain to sign for Fulham tomorrow. He's been linked with various clubs in the last few weeks so I'm reluctant to say too much about it."

Tennis

Briton beats Canadian into silent submission

Susan Barker maintained a remarkable record as she and Michele Tyler helped Britain to an overwhelming semi-final victory over Canada in the BP Cup under-21 tennis series at Torquay yesterday. Her 6—1, 6—1 win in 43 minutes against an astonished Pat Sinclair meant that Miss Barker had lost only one match out of 25 contested in five years of taking part in the competition.

Those five years have seen the Devonian progress from an outstanding junior to the world's No 8.

Miss Barker's short time on court yesterday was enough for Miss Sinclair, an 18-year-old Toronto student, who said afterwards "I don't think I've ever found anyone hitting the ball back at me so hard". Miss Sinclair looked startled as Miss Barker virtually beat her into submission with a succession of searing winners to build up a 5—0 lead.

Consolation for the Canadian came in the sixth game of the first set, and again in the second game of the second set, to give her brief respite; but with Miss Barker in no mood to ease the pressure, there was little Miss Sinclair could do except suffer in silence.

Miss Tyler preceded Miss Barker with a 6—3, 6—0 win in 59 minutes over Wendy Barlow. The Kent player dropped only eight points in the runaway second set. Britain, aiming to win the trophy for the third successive year, will meet the United States, who were equally decisive winners over France in the other semi-final match.

Britain's men disappointed. After failing to reach the knock-out stage for the second time in two years, they also looked totally unimpressive in the consolation match for fifth and sixth places. Robun Beven and Tony Lloyd hardly looked a partnership for the future as they went down 6—2, 7—6 to the Dutch pair, Frits Don and Theo Gorter.

The men's final will be between the United States, the holders, and Italy. It will be played on Davis Cup lines of four singles and a doubles. Both countries won their semi-final matches by 2—1, the outcome in each case depending on the concluding doubles. The United States beat France, two of the three rubbers going to three sets; Italy, who defeated West Germany, also had to go the full distance in two of their three matches.

MEN: Semi-final round: US beat France, 2—1. B. Manson lost to C. Roger-Vasselin, 6—3, 5—7, 2—6; W. Maze beat P. Portes, 6—2, 6—3; Maze and Manson beat Roger-Vasselin and G. Moretton, 6—7, 6—2, 6—4. Italy beat West Germany, 2—1. E. Vattuone lost to K. Eberhard, 4—6, 5—6; C. Ocleppo beat P. Elter, 4—6, 6—4, 6—3; Ocleppo and Vattuone beat Elter and P. Probst, 0—6, 6—4, 6—2. Play-offs: Fifth and sixth places: F. Don and T. Gorter (Netherlands) beat R. Beven and A. H. Lloyd (Britain), 6—2, 7—6. Seventh and eighth places: J. Brabanec and S. Rogul (Canada) beat A. Alvarez and J. C. Andrado (Spain), 7—6, 6—3.

WOMEN: Semi-final round: Britain beat Canada, 3—0. Miss M. Tyler beat Miss P. Sinclair, 6—3, 6—0; Miss S. Barker beat Miss W. Barlow, 6—1, 6—1; Miss Barker and Miss J. Durie beat Miss Sinclair and Miss Barlow, 6—2, 6—2. US beat France, 3—0. Z. Liess beat M. Jodin, 6—0, 6—3; Miss L. Epstein beat Miss M. Bureau, 6—1, 6—0; Miss Epstein and Miss P. Smith beat Miss Bureau and Miss A. Figueras, 6—2, 6—0. Play-off: Fifth and sixth places: Miss I. de Jonge and Miss M. Pakker (Netherlands) beat Miss J. Sheridan and Miss L. Tuff (Ireland), 6—2, 6—2.

Los Angeles, Feb 17.—Christine Evert, who was in command throughout, easily defeated the Californian Julie Anthony, 6—2, 6—3, last night to reach the third round of a women's tennis tournament here.

Miss Evert, the top seed, broke Miss Anthony's service twice in a row in the first set to go ahead 4—1. She also broke through twice more in the second set, in the third and ninth games.

RESULTS: Miss C. M. Evert beat Miss J. K. Anthony, 6—2, 6—3; Miss R. Casals beat Miss T. Austin, 6—4, 6—4; Miss S. V. Wade (GB) beat Miss K. Latham, 6—2, 6—3; Miss T. Holladay beat Miss B. F. Stove, 4—6, 6—4, 6—4; Miss J. Russell beat Miss K. Harter, 7—5, 6—1.

OCEAN CITY: I. Nastase beat J. McEnroe, 7—5, 6—4; G. Vilas beat A. Metreveli, 7—6, 6—5; V. Gerulaitis beat C. M. Pasarell, 6—4, 4—6, 6—3; R. Moore beat P. Dominguez, 3—6, 6—3, 7—6.

SAN JOSE (California): P. C. Dent beat G. Masters, 7—5, 4—6, 6—3; S. Docherty beat T. W. Gorman, 3—6, 6—4, 6—2.

TORONTO: J. S. Connors beat O. Parun, 6—1, 6—3; R. L. Case beat E. C. Drysdale, 6—3, 6—7, 7—6; A. D. Roche beat J. G. Alexander, 3—6, 7—6, 6—4.

Cricket

English summer may prove that Indian winter was misleading

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Bombay, Feb 17

Life is good for the England touring team at the moment. Last night they were able to celebrate their victory in the series against India on board Queen Elizabeth 2, now in Bombay on her cruise round the world. Their next engagement is not until Saturday, when they fly to Sri Lanka for eight days' cricket before going on to Perth and finally to Melbourne for the centenary Test match against Australia, starting on March 12.

It is no mean achievement to beat India in India. The only other England side to have done so was Douglas Jardine's, 43 years ago, and I doubt if ever he made the impact here that Tony Greig has done in the last three months. Like some blond colossus, Greig has dominated the scene, both on the field and off.

"Where's Mr Greig?" has been the question that everyone has asked, followed, disarmingly, by "What's your good name." Without Greig this would be half the England side it is. With him it has done what it came to do, in terms of results, without suggesting that it has the players to go on to great things.

One of the reasons why England began to get the worst of things in the last two Test matches was that Greig's own bowling was so erratic. He is also excitable when the game starts to run away from him on the field. He has had a compelling tour, though, not least in his relations with the great Indian public, and he has helped England, at least partly, to believe in themselves again.

The main disappointment has been how slowly the batsmen have developed. The fault for this is only partly their own. A young MCC batsman on his first tour, with his confidence to build up, can expect to find it easier these days to make a hundred against South Australia at Adelaide or against Barbados at Bridgetown than against East Zone on a dust track at Gauhati or the Combined Universities at Nagpur.

As for playing the Indian spinners in a Test match, on pitches now produced for them, there is nothing remotely simple about that. Randall's scores of 22 and 15 in the last Test match were worth a couple of 50s of many another Test occasion.

Because of their statistically poor Test returns, it is difficult to be sure how good Randall will become, and how much it is reasonable to expect from Brearley in the next two or three years, and whether, when the game is no longer exclusively to do with spin, Barlow and Woolmer will come into their own. We may know more about this in Melbourne. We shall certainly find out all about it next summer when the Australians are in England.

As preparation for a Test match against Australia, a tour to India is as much use as driving a vintage car from London to Brighton the day before hurtling round Silverstone in the British Grand Prix—except for the teamwork it creates. The teamwork of Greig's side has been conspicuously good, for which Ken Barrington, a well-liked and conscientious manager, may take considerable credit.

Technically, the most satisfactory aspect of England's play was the respect shown by their bowlers for length and line. Willis has come back with a bang on this tour, Old has been a valuable all-rounder and Lever has come on enough to raise hopes that his 26 Test wickets will be followed by quite a lot more.

With 56 Test wickets between them, these three took only six fewer wickets than Bedi, Chandrasekhar and Prasanna in 350 fewer overs. That was remarkable, and had a lot to do, of course, with the result. As did Amiss's 179 at Delhi, Tolchard's 67 at Calcutta, Knott's inimitable contributions, Underwood's fine bowling and the towering presence of Greig.

For batsmen whose last two years have been spent dodging bouncers, not to have had to do so for three whole months has been a merciful relief. Which brings one to the future of Indian cricket and its almost total reliance on spin. Although there are dietary and physical reasons for this, as well as climatological ones (temperatures which induce lethargy), I believe India could breed fast bowlers, which is not to say they ever will.

There is certainly no way of their doing so while their game is played on slow, turning pitches. What they need most, and it would be possible to achieve, are faster pitches than they have and a return to truer batting conditions. If the series had been played on the plumbest pitches they could have prepared, India, because their bowlers have more guile than England's, would probably have won it.

If it were to be played all over again on the pitches as they were, I am not sure who would win. That is how closely matched the two sides were, at any rate in India. There is, in India, a critical lack of opportunities for the young, mainly for economic reasons. Indians are among the best natural cricketers in the world, yet they are able barely to scratch the surface of the great resources they have.

Seventy-five per cent of the country's population of 600,000,000 live in the villages, where not one of them would play any organized cricket. Even in the vast majority of urban schools there is no cricket to speak of and, until more of the money taken from the Test matches is ploughed into the schools, so it will remain. Of the children of the country, no more than perhaps one in a 1,000 has the chance to play anything much more than cricket in the street.

Although Ghavri was once a milkman and Solkar's father was groundsman at the Hindu Ghymkhana in Bombay, Indian cricket is almost wholly a middle-class game.

Final averages for Test match series in India

India batting

	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Avge
S. Amarnath	4	0	180	63	45.00
S. M. Gavaskar	10	0	394	108	39.40
B. P. Patel	10	0	296	83	29.60
K. Ghavri	6	2	99	35*	24.75
A. D. Gaekwad	8	0	165	39	20.62
G. R. Viswanath	10	1	173	79*	19.22
S. M. H. Kirmani	10	1	167	52	18.55
P. Sharma	4	0	62	29	15.50
Madan Lal	4	0	51	17	12.75
Yajuvendra Singh	4	0	50	21	12.50
B. S. Bedi	10	3	81	20*	11.57
M. Amarnath	4	0	36	24	9.00
E. A. S. Prasanna	8	1	55	13	7.85
B. S. Chandrasekhar	10	3	20	6	2.85

ALSO BATTED: D. B. Vengsarkar, 8, 1 (Rtd hurt); E. D. Solkar, 2, 3; A. V. Mankad, 0, 4; S. Venkataraghavan, 0, 4.

England batting

	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Avge
D. L. Amiss	9	1	417	179	52.12
A. W. Greig	8	0	342	103	42.75
A. P. E. Knott	8	1	268	81*	38.28
J. M. Brearley	8	0	215	91	26.87
R. W. Tolchard	7	2	129	67	25.80
K. W. R. Fletcher	5	1	91	58*	22.75
J. K. Lever	8	1	122	53	17.42
C. M. Old	6	0	95	52	15.83
R. A. Woolmer	3	0	42	22	14.00
D. W. Randall	7	0	86	37	12.28
D. L. Underwood	7	1	71	23	11.83
G. D. Barlow	3	1	11	7*	5.50
R. G. D. Willis	7	2	19	7	3.80

ALSO BATTED M. W. W. Selvey 5*.

Bowling

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Avge
E. A. S. Prasanna	232.4	79	389	18	21.61
B. S. Bedi	298	106	574	25	22.96
K. Ghavri	58	15	149	6	24.83
B. S. Chandrasekhar	194	40	537	19	28.26
Madan Lal	48	11	86	3	28.66
S. Venkataraghavan	34	6	94	2	47.00

ALSO BOWLED: M. Amarnath, 29—7—56—0; E. D. Solkar, 6—1—15—0; S. M. Gavaskar, 5—3—3—0; P. Sharma, 4—0—8—0; Yajuvendra Singh, 1—0—3—0; A. D. Gaekwad, 1—0—1—0.

Bowling

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Avge
J. K. Lever	149.4	29	380	26	14.61
R. G. D. Willis	135	25	335	20	16.75
D. L. Underwood	252.5	95	509	29	17.55
C. M. Old	88.5	20	201	10	20.10
A. W. Greig	131	38	336	10	33.60

ALSO BOWLED: M. W. W. Selvey, 15—1—80—0; R. A. Woolmer, 1—0—2—0.

*Not out.

Bowlers will toil in Bridgetown Test

Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 17.—Pakistan and the West Indies are likely to indulge in a feast of runs on the placid Kensington Oval wicket in the first Test match starting tomorrow.

Although it can sometimes be unpredictable, the Kensington wicket is traditionally a batsmen's paradise and Pakistan and the West Indies have two of the strongest batting sides in the world today. In the four-day match which ended here on Tuesday, Pakistan and Barbados amassed 1,201 runs while their 13 bowlers toiled to get a total of 26 wickets. A similar pattern seems likely to emerge in the Test, with the most logical outcome a draw.

If either side has an edge, it is the West Indies because they have the faster bowlers. Imran Khan, Sarfraz Nawaz and Saleem Altaf can bowl their medium-pace magnificently, but on a pitch as dead as this, the extra pace of men like Anderson Roberts and Colin Croft could be crucial.

But for the absence through injury of Michael Holding and Wayne Daniel, who normally spearhead the formidable West Indies attack with Roberts, the chances of a West Indies victory would be stronger. The touring team were destroyed in St Lucia by Croft and Joel Garner, and there must be some doubt about their ability to stand up to real pace. For the first Test, only Roberts allies real speed with experience; Vanburn Holder has the experience but not destructive pace and Croft has the speed but lacks control.

The West Indies may even include a fourth fast bowler, as Garner is in the 13-man party, but it is more likely that an all-rounder, such as Foster or Shillingford, will be used.

WEST INDIES (probable): G. Greenidge, R. Fredericks, A. Kallicharran, V. Richards, C. Lloyd, D. Murray, M. Foster, A. Roberts, V. Holder, R. Jumadeen, C. Croft.—Reuter.

PAKISTAN: Majid Khan, Sadiq Mohammad, Haroon Rasehid, Mushtaq Mohammad (captain), Asif Iqbal, Javed Miandad, Wasim Raja, Imran Khan, Wasim Bari, Sarfraz Nawaz, Saleem Altaf.

Australians eager for action

Christchurch, Feb 17.—A confident Australian team begin the first Test match at Lancaster Park here tomorrow with their fast bowlers eager for action against New Zealand. Everything has come right for the Australian bowlers and Lillee, Walker and Gilmour are hungry for wickets. Lillee has had an enforced rest after a hamstring injury.

AUSTRALIA: G. S. Chappell (captain), I. Davis, A. Turner, R. B. McCosker, G. Cosier, K. D. Walters, R. W. Marsh, G. J. Gilmour, K. J. O'Keeffe, D. K. Lillee, M. H. N. Walker, R. Bright.

NEW ZEALAND: G. B. Turner (captain), G. Howarth, B. E. Congdon, M. G. Burgess, J. Parker, J. Edwards, W. Lees, R. J. Hadlee, D. Hadlee, H. Howarth, E. Chatfield, L. Cairns.—Reuter.

Skiing

Russi sets fast pace after Klammer fails

Laax, Switzerland, Feb 17.—Bernhard Russi, of Switzerland, and Peter Wirnsperger, of Austria, returned the fastest practice times today for a World Cup downhill race tomorrow as fresh snow slowed down the favourite, Franz Klammer, of Austria.

Russi, who won his first World Cup victory for four years last month to break Klammer's stranglehold on this season's downhills, set a time of 2mins 4.46secs. Wirnsperger, aged 18, was timed in 2mins 4.77secs, but both were well behind yesterday's best time of 2mins 4.02secs set by Kenneth Read, of Canada.

Klammer, the second fastest yesterday, was the second to go down the course still covered with new snow. He was placed 34th. The race was originally scheduled to be run at St Anton, Austria, earlier this month.

LEADING TIMES: 1. B. Russi, 2mins 4.46secs; 2. P. Wirnsperger (Austria), 2:4.77; 3. A. Mill (US), 2:5.26; 4. E. Josl, 2:5.44; 5. R. Berthod, 2:5.57; 6. M. Veith (W Germany), 2:5.78; 7. L. Stock (Austria), 2:5.88; 8. G. Alster (Austria), 2:5.92; 9. R. Antonioli (Italy), 2:6.05; 10. M. Berthod, 2:6.45.—Reuter.

Table tennis

Wilson loses temper, glasses and match

James Wilson, a 21-year-old Essex accountant, deliberately smashed a £40 pair of spectacles in disgust on his way to defeat in the English table tennis championships, sponsored by Norwich Union, at Woking last night. It was the third pair he has broken as well as half a dozen bats, costing £9 each, this season.

"I just cannot control my temper", Wilson said after losing his first round men's singles match to Gordon Chapman. "I am almost blind in the left eye after being kicked. I have to wear dark glasses and need very good lighting but the light here just did not suit me. I missed a point in the second game, lost my temper and smashed the spectacles to pieces with my bat.

"It was either the spectacles or the bat, but as I am playing in the doubles tomorrow, I decided it had better not be the latter." Wilson, who said he would probably be selected by Essex at tennis if it were not for his temperament, played better after relieving his feelings. He won the third game easily but then went down to defeat in the fourth and last.

James Walker, one of England's party of five in the world championships at Birmingham next month, was surprisingly beaten by Nigel Eckersley, ranked only 18th in the country. Walker came back to square the match after losing the first two games, but, in the fifth, he was always struggling for survival and seemed to be baffled by Eckersley's high services.

John Hilton, seeded fourth but excluded from the world championship team, also lost in four games to Douglas Johnson.

Men

FIRST ROUND: R. Potton beat B. Tyler, 21—8, 21—9, 21—18; A. Robertson beat A. Proffitt, 21—16, 21—17, 22—20; N. Eckersley beat D. Isaatt, 21—18, 21—8, 22—20; P. Beck beat G. Sandley, 21—16, 11—21, 17—21, 21—15, 21—18; J. Walker beat J. Kennedy, 21—16, 21—13, 21—13; N. Jarvis beat R. Hampson, 19—21, 19—21, 21—11, 21—16, 21—14; G. Blomfield beat J. Proffitt, 15—21, 21—16, 14—21, 24—22, 21—14; M. Mitchell beat K. Taylor, 21—8, 21—6, 21—10; A. Kilburn beat M. Oakley, 21—17, 22—20, 21—13; K. Paxton beat C. Corder, 21—7, 21—12, 21—17; R. Tilling beat B. Johnson, 21—17, 21—13, 21—16; P. Day beat M. Kinsella, 21—14, 21—8, 21—11.

D. Johnson beat P. McQueen, 21—16, 21—14, 21—12; J. Hilton beat A. Croome, 17—21, 21—13, 21—19, 21—8; M. Shuttle beat C. Sewell, 21—17, 22—20, 19—21, 21—17; D. Munt beat L. Landry, 21—14, 21—10, 21—19; G. Chapman beat J. Wilson, 21—12, 21—18, 10—21, 21—17; A. Kitchener beat R. Wylie, 21—12, 21—15, 21—10; D. Newman beat D. Purrell, 21—16, 21—17, 21—18; P. Glynn beat W. Sichol, 20—22, 21—18, 21—12, 21—13; A. Barden beat D. Brown, 17—21, 18—21, 21—18, 21—11, 21—11; A. Fletcher beat S. Proffitt, 21—11, 21—18, 21—17; I. Horsham beat K. Rudd, 19—21, 21—10, 21—17, 21—12; C. Rogers beat K. Beamish, 21—9, 21—18, 21—12; D. Wells beat D. Reeves, 22—20, 21—23, 21—16, 21—15; D. Neale beat M. Crimmins, 21—11, 21—15, 21—14.

SECOND ROUND: D. Douglas beat D. Tan, 21—15, 21—10, 21—10; Potton beat Robertson, 21—11, 15—21, 21—19, 21—11; Eckersley beat J. Ellis, 21—6, 21—15, 21—6; Walker beat Beck, 19—21, 21—14, 21—12, 21—17; Jarvis beat Blomfield, 21—12, 13—21, 21—18, 21—14; Mitchell beat Kilburn, 12—21, 21—18, 21—11, 21—11; Johnson beat Paxton, 21—18, 21—19, 21—18; Hilton beat Pilling, 21—12, 21—10, 21—10; Day beat Shuttle, 19—21, 21—18, 21—12, 19—21, 21—18; Munt beat Chapman, 21—11, 21—14, 21—7; Kitchener beat Newman, 14—21, 21—6, 21—14, 19—21, 21—17; Barden beat Glynn, 21—12, 21—15, 17—21, 21—12; Fletcher wo M. Newman scr; Horsham beat C. Thomas, 21—14, 17—21, 21—8, 21—15; Rogers beat Wells, 23—25, 18—21, 21—18, 21—11, 21—12; Neale beat J. Graham, 21—15, 21—16, 21—18.

THIRD ROUND: Douglas beat Potton, 21—17, 21—12, 21—14; Jarvis beat Mitchell, 21—23, 21—12, 17—21, 21—14, 21—16; Johnson beat Hilton, 17—21, 21—16, 21—17, 21—13; Barden beat Kitchener, 14—21, 21—13, 21—13, 22—20; Fletcher beat Horsham, 22—20, 21—6, 13—21, 19—21, 21—13; Neal beat Rogers, 21—15, 21—18, 21—11; Eckersley beat Walker, 21—18, 21—12, 15—21, 22—24, 21—15; Day beat Munt, 21—9, 9—21, 21—11, 21—17.

Carole Knight: ranked second at Woking.

Rybarczyk, Nowicki, Gasiorek, Niedzwiedzki, Fibak—and the biggest name is Fibak

The ambassador whose embassy is the world

There is a sadness about the tides of talent on the international tennis circuit. Agreeable people go out with the ebb and bob about on the horizon of memory. There is compensation in the delightful newcomers who come in with the tide's flow. One of them, perhaps the most popular of prominent East Europeans, is Wojtek Fibak (his genuine forename, Wojciech, has been phonetically compressed in the cause of international understanding).

Fibak's disposition is more consistently buoyant and genial than that of Kodes or Nastase. He has an effortless charm that borrows nothing from affectation. The spirit of laughter keeps bubbling to the surface as he attacks the English language with witty enthusiasm. Shorthand writers flounder, searching for a stretch of still water amid the spilling cascade of words. On court, he is a tough competitor but a sportsman. His tennis has more facility than that of Kodes, more equilibrium than that of Nastase. On the evidence of his first two years on the circuit, Fibak's achievements may eventually match theirs. But he is already 24: an age at which Kodes had won the French championship and Nastase the Italian.

Fibak rises 5ft 10in above the earth's crust and, at a supple 11st, is unlikely to make much of a dent in it. He is the first Pole to play full-time on the circuit and (to some extent as a consequence) the most successful player his country has produced.

The Fibaks, citizens of Poznan, are in the process of moving from an apartment to a house: necessarily more spacious quarters for Wojtek, his wife Ewa, their daughter Agnes, and a German shepherd dog. Such domestic rearrangements are complicated by Fibak's American tennis programme and the fact that his wife, having completed her university studies in the Romance languages and the humanities, is currently writing a thesis in Florida. Fibak also has a sister, who is studying to become an architect. In 1975 he took her to the United States for two months' holiday.

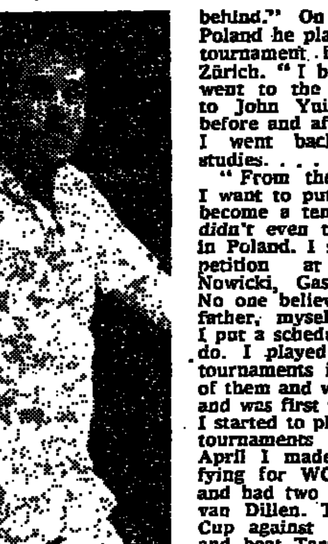
This, obviously, is no socially deprived family. Fibak's father, a surgeon, has written much and travelled widely in pursuing his profession. It was paternal encouragement that led Fibak to tennis, partly as an introduction to better company than he might find in other games. But at that time there was no question of a tennis career. Sportsmen were not particularly esteemed, and in any case Fibak had brains. Why waste them on sport, he was asked, when he could have a better future in another profession? Tennis was just for fun.

"Now it looks different because I am ambassador of my country. Tennis gave me one of the biggest names in Poland. I do what I want, I could have my own show on TV."

If he ever has time to get round to it, Fibak would like that. "Roman Polanski was my idol. I wanted to be a movie director. I was always thinking about writing something, poetry, stories, making some shows." But in 1970 he reached the quarter-final round of the junior invitation tournaments played in conjunction with the French and Wimbledon championships. He was impressed by what he saw. His ambitions changed course.

"With my father, I decided it was good to play tennis. In 1971 I finish at high school, the best in Poznan, and went to university to study law, because it was the only direction I could still play tennis. With other things you have to be there all the time, in the laboratory perhaps. A lot of practice. Law is only books. I thought only about playing tennis. I went to law school for tennis, not for law. Otherwise I would go to another town, Lodz (Polanski studied there), for five years. . . .

"In 1972 I finish the first year at university, I was the top tennis player in my town already. I went to the dean and he gave me special permission to have more time, to do what I want. Then I went into tennis and started to practise hard, to play really serious. I was maybe fifth in Poland."



Fibak: genial piece of flotsam cast up by the tide.

He began to travel to Warsaw, to train for Davis Cup competition, to play in the European under-21 team championship for the Galea Cup. In 1973 he became Poland's No 2, behind Nowicki, and played in the Davis Cup. With Ewa, then his fiancée, he drove to Milan and won his first international tournament and his first prize money, beating Barazzutti in the final of the under-21 event for the Bonfiglio Cup. "I did everything myself. But I won $1,000 to pay my expenses. I beat the top players of my age. That was my first success. It gave me some confidence. It suddenly broke into me that I am not so far behind." On the way home to Poland he played in his first open tournament for prize money, in Zürich. "I beat David Lloyd and went to the semi-finals and lost to John Yuill. I couldn't sleep before and after that match. Then I went back and made some studies. . . .

"From the beginning of 1974 I want to put my dream real and become a tennis player. But they didn't even think I was the best in Poland. I still had strong competition at home—Rybarczyk, Nowicki, Gasiorek, Niedzwiedzki. No one believe me. But Ewa, my father, myself think it possible. I put a schedule, what was best to do. I played seven little indoor tournaments in Sweden, won two of them and was runner-up in two, and was first with the bonus. Then I started to play pretty well. Little tournaments here and there. In April I made the Munich qualifying for WCT and beat Ruffels and had two match points against van Dillen. Then I played Davis Cup against Hungary at Warsaw and beat Taroczy, who had three match points at 5—4 and 40—love on his service in the fourth. That was the last match and we won 3—2."

Fibak was planning to compete in some tournaments in Germany. But his federation said he must stay at home ("The problem was that they didn't want me to play professional tennis"). He had to convince them, among other things, that international experience would make him a better Davis Cup player. "I lost time, because of the problems. Then I start again. In October I qualify for Madrid and Barcelona, where I beat Ashe and reach the quarter-finals. My dream come true. I put some pressure on the federation and suddenly all the relations were going pretty well."

That was the end of the beginning. In 1975 Fibak became the first Pole to play full-time on the international circuit.

In his first two years on the circuit Fibak made only a modest showing in the Wimbledon, French, and United States championships. But an excited buzz went round Forest Hills in 1975 when he had Solomon on the brink of defeat. The players, already aware of Fibak's quality, were less surprised than the public. Initially, though, it was as a doubles player that he made his mark. In 1976 Fibak and Meiler won the WCT doubles.

But he was advancing fast in singles, too, reaching a lot of finals and winning some of them. In 1976 he rose from 58th to 14th in the rankings, his victims including Borg, Nastase, Orantes, Ramirez, Dibbs, and Tanner. He beat Orantes at Bournemouth to become the first Pole other than Skonecki, the 1955 indoor champion, to win a British title. In December (with Connors, Borg, Nastase, and Panatta missing from the field) he reached the final of the grand prix Masters tournament at Houston—and won eight successive games and 10 out of 11 to lead Orantes 7—5, 2—6, 6—0, 4—1, with his service to come. But Orantes, playing with the uninhibited verve that is the child of despair, won the fourth set 7—6, and the fifth 6—1.

Fibak's successes have had a healthy effect on the Polish game. In the past two or three years the number of courts has almost doubled. "They are all clay. But we have some carpets now, for all sports, and there is a question of building a special facility for tennis. The game is so popular that everyone wants to play."

All that has happened primarily because of the man who wanted to be a film director but changed his mind and studied law so that he could play tennis. In two senses Fibak has fulfilled his early ambition of becoming a showman: chiefly as a professional sportsman, but also as a warm and witty human being whose post-match press conferences are an unfailing delight. The tennis set were lucky with the incoming tide that tossed Fibak among them.

Rex Bellamy

Rugby League

Clubs improve image of Humberside

Humberside's Rugby League status has been greatly improved this season. Hull Kingston Rovers are strong contenders for the first division title and Hull have a four-point lead at the top of the second division.

Both clubs came through the first round of the Rugby League Cup and have been paired in round two. Rovers will be at home and the tie, on February 26, will be televised.

Rovers lie two points behind St Helens, the first division leader, with a game in hand. Their strong pack is the key to success and Rose, Casey and Millington are all pressing for international honours.

With Lowe fit again, Rovers should maintain their championship challenge this weekend, when they visit Oldham. Earlier this month they crushed Oldham 35—5 at home. Dunn crossed the Oldham line three times and Sullivan twice, which brought him the 350th try of his career.

St Helens should carry too much power for bottom-but-one Rochdale. Featherstone, who are only a point behind St Helens with three matches in hand, should not be troubled at home by Barrow, the bottom club.

Yesterday's results

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Southern Amateur League 3, Cambridge University 1.
RUGBY UNION: Schools match: Maidstone GS 3, Emanuel 22.
RUGBY LEAGUE: First division: Widnes 10, Wigan 7.

Today's fixtures

FIRST DIVISION: West Bromwich Albion v Birmingham City (7.45).
THIRD DIVISION: Lincoln City v Portsmouth (7.30).
FOURTH DIVISION: Newport County v Doncaster Rovers (7.30); Stockport County v Bradford City (7.30).
RUGBY UNION: Bristol v Pontypridd (7.30); Cheltenham v Bath (7.0); Leicester v CASG (France) (7.15); Northampton v Coventry (7.30); Rosslyn Park v Saracens (7.0); London New Zealand v [illegible] (7.0); [illegible]
RUGBY LEAGUE: First division: Castleford v Leeds (7.30).

SPORT

Boxing

Hope to face world champion in March

Berlin, Feb 17.—Eckhard Dagge, the World Boxing Council light-middleweight champion, will defend his title on March 15 against Maurice Hope, Britain's European champion, it was announced today. The bout will take place in the Deutschland Halle in West Berlin, Dagge's manager and the promoter, Willy Zeller, said.

Dagge is West Germany's first world champion since Max Schmeling held the heavyweight title before the Second World War. Tall and lanky, Dagge surprised Elisha Obed, of the Bahamas, with a vicious body attack last June. He then survived his first defence against Emile Griffith, of the United States, last September.

Dagge has been doing most of his training in Los Angeles and in the past two years has changed his style from a typical European to an American, jabbing and hooking. Zeller said a purse of 101,000 dollars would be offered but gave no details of how it would be divided, although he expected it to be Dagge's richest pay-day. Dagge, a professional since 1973, has won 20 contests and lost three. Hope has won 20 of 22.—AP.

Jack Solomons, the manager of Charlie Nash, of Derry, Britain's No 2 lightweight, is to stage professional boxing in Belfast. Solomons will promote a show there on March 21 or 22, with Nash heading the bill. It will not be his first promotion there, for in March, 1964, he put on the British bantamweight championship between John Caldwell and George Bowes.

It will be part of a campaign which, he hopes, will lead Nash to a match with the European light-welterweight champion, Dave Green. Nash, who is unbeaten, boxes at the World Sporting Club, London, on February 28, in Belfast in March and at Cesar's Palace, Luton, on April 4. There he will meet the Spanish lightweight champion, Jeronimo Lucas.

Hockey

West taught lesson in controlled play

By Joyce Whitehead

West 0 New Zealanders 3

The New Zealand women's hockey team were back on course yesterday in the second match of their tour. They beat West on the Imperial Athletics ground at Knowle, Bristol, and taught their opponents a lesson.

In a fairly even first half Judith Phillips cleverly controlled the ball in a full circle, paused for a split second and eluded the West goalkeeper with a neat shot to give the visitors the lead. West attacked strongly just before half time but their shots at goal were too few and too weak to make any impact.

After the interval West became a little dispirited; they were not allowed to do what they wanted with the ball and their through passes were gifts readily taken by the New Zealand defenders. The visitors were superior in stick-work and speed on the ball and they turned from attack to defence with lightning speed. But perhaps the real key to their success was the quietly commanding role played by their centre-half and captain, Pat Barwick. Her reach was deceptive and she seemed to know where to find each player. This was in great contrast to the tactics of the West, who seldom used player-to-player passing and failed dismally when they had free hits.

It was not surprising that Mrs Barwick was responsible for the New Zealanders' third goal. She hand-stopped a corner hit so accurately that Miss Phillips had no difficulty in sending a powerful shot into goal. Before this, Glenis Horspool, the New Zealanders' left-inner, had scored their second goal.

WEST: B. Hall (Wiltshire); J. Edwards (Gloucestershire), S. Wilkinson (Herefordshire), S. Franks (Somerset), S. Dredge (Somerset), J. Tippin (Devon, captain), J. Scott (Gloucestershire), S. Slocombe (Somerset), J. Walsh (Dorset), V. Kear (Gloucestershire), A. Gleed (Wiltshire).

NEW ZEALANDERS: G. Fergusson; M. Munro, M. Goodyer, P. Whiteman, P. Barwick (captain), J. Neil, M. Gray, J. Phillips, J. McDonald, G. Horspool, P. Lunn.

Umpires: S. Dabson and M. Houlton.

By Sydney Friskin

England's World Cup hockey party has been reduced from 24 to 18 for the next training weekend at Crystal Palace on February 26 and 27. This will be the last opportunity to get together before the international festival at Lord's on March 12 and 13, for which the number of England players will probably be 16.

There is a long way to go before the World Cup tournament is held at Buenos Aires in April, 1978, and new factors concerning the selection are bound to come to light in the concentrated programme of events leading up to it. Brian Purdy, one of the more experienced players, failed to survive the cut, which is a little surprising, but the side as it stands seems well stocked with midfield players of his class. There is still a shortage of top class forwards.

ENGLAND PARTY: D. C. Aldridge (Southgate and Norfolk), P. J. Barber (Peterborough and Cambridgeshire), R. L. Barker (Old Kingstonians and Surrey), R. H. Brookeman (Hounslow and Middlesex), B. J. Cotton (Southgate and Hertfordshire), B. R. Disbury (Redditch and Worcestershire), G. D. Fotherstone (Hounslow and Surrey), D. Featherstone (Hounslow and Oxfordshire), J. C. French (Westcliff and Essex), N. Hughes (Wakefield and Yorkshire), J. A. Hurst (St Albans and Hertfordshire), S. S. Khehar (Slough and Buckinghamshire), R. L. Long (Bury St Edmunds YMCA and Suffolk), I. S. McGinn (Southgate and Middlesex), I. P. Pinks (Guildford and Surrey), B. S. Sami (Slough and Buckinghamshire), N. R. Saldanha (Blackheath and Kent), D. B. Whitaker (Southgate and Hertfordshire).

Racing

Rain stops Easterby risking Night Nurse in Ireland

By Michael Seely

The £10,000 Erin Foods hurdle at Leopardstown tomorrow has been deprived of its chief attraction, Night Nurse, the Champion Hurdler. At the eleventh hour, when Night Nurse was at Luton airport, Peter Easterby received news that, after further rain in Ireland, the ground was becoming very soft. Easterby decided to withdraw Night Nurse.

In his absence Comedy of Errors is now a firm favourite to capture this new race. It is interesting to note that the Irish rate their chances of keeping this valuable prize at home lower than do the English. A leading firm of Dublin bookmakers make Comedy of Errors a 6 to 4 chance, but a London firm offers 9 to 4 against.

As Night Nurse is not one of the 17 acceptors for the City Trial Hurdle at Nottingham on Monday, it looks as though he, as well as his stable-companion, Sea Pigeon, will go to Cheltenham without a preliminary race. This leaves Dramatist, who runs in the Kingwell Hurdle at Wincanton, as the only leading contender for the championship who will run again before the National Hunt meeting.

Incidentally, in the Nottingham race only three of those declared—Beacon Light, Peterhof and Strombolus—will be running from their correct mark in this limited handicap. The weights of the other 14 acceptors have been lifted to 10 st 7 lb. But Tiepolino, the Schweppes fourth, already announced as an intended starter, has had to be raised only 1 lb.

Yesterday there was further support for Lanzarote in the Gold Cup after his easy victory over modest opposition at Ascot on Wednesday. Lord Howard de Walden's nine-year-old is now top-priced at 7 to 1. The layer's books on this event must have a healthy appearance, as the original favourite, Royal Frolic, has been withdrawn and Brown Lad has suffered a setback in training.

The picture will be a great deal clearer after the Harold Clarke Handicap at Leopardstown tomorrow, and after the Fairlawne Steeplechase and the Jim Ford Cup at Windsor and Wincanton respectively next week. Fort Devon and Border Incident will probably avoid meeting each other, as Border Incident is set to concede weight to Fort Devon at Windsor; it is the other way round at Wincanton.

There is a Gold Cup trial of sorts at Newcastle this afternoon, where Tamalin and Broncho II are set to carry joint topweight in the Trout Steeplechase Limited Handicap. Tamalin, the better horse, has run below par since his valiant effort when chasing home Zeta's Son in the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury. Broncho, on the other hand, advertised his well-being when pursuing Master H at Sandown Park. In the absence of any evidence of Tamalin's return to form I shall side with Broncho. I expect little trouble from those below them in the handicap.

However Gordon Richards fares with Tamalin, the Greystoke trainer could well capture the Oak Handicap Hurdle with Sun Lion. Beaten comfortably by his stable-companion, Lord Greystoke, at Haydock Park, Sun Lion should have the most to fear from Jane Again, a course winner. Stephen Nesbitt's New Zealand-bred gelding, Four Star, who was brought down by a loose horse at the last fence at Sedgefield when lengths ahead of his nearest attendant, Santon Brig, has Rolls Rambler to beat in the Beech Novices' Handicap.

At Fakenham there is an interesting race in prospect for the Walter Wales's Hunters' Steeplechase. The late Mr Wales's son, David, will be trying to win the prize with Apache Chief, the winner of his only two races under rules last season. But I am going for Wintergreen, who finished only half a length behind Drumbo at Wetherby.

Comedy of Errors: an unmistakable leap into favouritism.

STATE OF GOING (official): Fakenham: Soft. Newcastle: Heavy. Tomorrow: Chepstow: Heavy. Lingfield Park: Heavy. Nottingham: Soft.

Goldstein wins confidently on Turk

Ray Goldstein, who has been with David Morley for two and a half years, rode his first winner at the fortieth attempt when partnering Turk to victory by 12 lengths in the Full Moon Handicap Hurdle at Southwell yesterday.

Goldstein rode a confident race, sending his mount ahead at the sixth flight and keeping cool when the five-year-old flattened the last two flights.

Aloha Prince, owned by a Tottenham bookmaker Bill Gooch, romped home in the second division of the Elm Tree Novices' Hurdle. The gelding provided a well deserved success for the Newmarket trainer Dick Westbrook, who has had three winners, five seconds and two thirds from 13 runners this season.

Stephen Jobar was also on the mark, partnering the aptly named Lanky Lad to a win by six lengths over Coole Abbey in the Bromley Arms Handicap Steeplechase. Lanky Lad took a crashing fall in the race won by Isle of Man at Newbury on Saturday but never put a foot wrong today. He won this race 12 months ago carrying 31lb less than yesterday.

Favourite is injured

Scott Joplyn, the ante-post favourite for the Lincoln, the first big handicap of the 1977 flat season, is "extremely doubtful" for the Doncaster race.

Clive Brittain, his trainer, said last night: "Scott Joplyn jarred his near fore sesamoid joint at exercise today and it is highly unlikely that I will be able to get him ready for the Lincoln now. I am bitterly disappointed as the horse had been working well and I thought he had a great chance."

Taunton became the 94th casualty of the National Hunt season when yesterday's fixture was called off after an early morning inspection.

Newcastle programme

1.45 POPLAR HURDLE (4-y-o novices: £718: 2½m)

1 Home Turn, D. Nicholson, 11-5 ... J. Suthern 3
04 Airparts Flyer, S. Norton, 11-0 ... G. Graham 5
00 Aragosta, I. Craig, 11-0 ... M. [illegible] 7

[illegible]

11-8 Home Turn, 5-2 Airparts Flyer, 9-2 Igloo Fire, 6-1 Aragosta, 8-1 Comfortable, 16-1 others.

2.15 SYCAMORE HURDLE (Novices' handicap: £503: 2½m)

[illegible]

5-2 Top-N-Tale, 4-1 Maurivarano, 9-2 Pamphilos, 6-1 Danescastle, 8-1 Three To One, 10-1 Saucy Sam, 12-1 Our Prince and Thuster, 20-1 others.

2.45 OAK HURDLE (Handicap: £937: 2m 120yds)

[illegible]

11-4 Le Galois, 7-2 Sun Lion, 9-2 Golden End, 6-1 Sounds Good, 8-1 Bumble Boy, 12-1 Bandicoot, 14-1 Jane Again, 16-1 Bigham, 20-1 others.

3.15 TROUT STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £2,216: 3m)

[illegible]

15-8 Broncho II, 9-4 Tamalin, 4-1 The Gent, 6-1 Even Swell, 7-1 Stay-Boil, 8-1 Welton Lad.

3.45 BEECH STEEPLECHASE (Novices' handicap: £826: 2m 120yds)

[illegible]

9-4 Four Star, 11-4 Double Gem, 4-1 Rolls Rambler, 6-1 Follow Me, 8-1 Golden Express, 10-1 Chief Boatman.

4.15 WILD DUCK HURDLE (Novices: £503: 2m 120yds)

[illegible]

6-4 Blue Chrome, 7-2 Heriot, 9-2 Swanee Castle, 6-1 Et Tu, 8-1 Ginlop, 12-1 Legal Extraction, 20-1 others.

* Doubtful runner

Newcastle selections

From Our Racing Staff

1.45 Igloo Fire. 2.15 Maurivarano. 2.45 Sun Lion. 3.15 Bronco II. 3.45 Four Star. 4.15 Blue Chrome.

Fakenham programme

1.30 HUNSTANTON HURDLE (Div I: Novices: £306: 3m)

1 0-32100 Barclays Own, J. Leigh, 6-11-13 ... T. Casey
2 0014 In View, S. Mellor, 6-11-13 ... J. Glover
3 30p020 Miss Quilp, A. Goodwill, 6-11-13 ... G. Thorner

[illegible]

9-4 Grinling Gibbons, 7-2 Miss Quilp, 4-1 In View, 11-2 Gaming Dice, 7-1 Barclays Own, 8-1 French Rebel, 14-1 others.

2.0 SHERINGHAM HURDLE (Handicap: £306: 2m 120yds)

[illegible]

5-2 Kellater, 7-2 Skipple, 9-2 Jolly Sweet, 6-1 Cregg Park, 8-1 Grand Attraction and Flaxmead, 12-1 Tragacanth, 16-1 others.

2.30 SANDRINGHAM STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £597: 3m)

[illegible]

6-4 No Scotch, 11-4 Salvage Man, 9-1 Soho Sol, 6-1 Straight Fair, 10-1 Just Owen, 14-1 others.

3.0 WALTER WALES STEEPLECHASE (Hunters: £340: 2m 5½f)

[illegible]

3-1 Wintergreen, 4-1 Apache Chief, Abercrombie, 11-2 Urlanmore, 15-2 Even Harmony and My Sold, 10-1 Streaky Bacon, 14-1 others.

3.30 BLAKENEY STEEPLECHASE (Novices: £402: 2m)

[illegible]

5-2 Trustful, 3-1 Kenmore, 5-1 Mr Stubbs, 8-1 Bright Comet and Kings Oak, 10-1 Heavenore, 14-1 Islesmede, 16-1 Nesterhip, 20-1 others.

4.0 HUNSTANTON HURDLE (Div II: Novices: £306: 3m)

[illegible]

13-8 Peter The Great, 7-2 Rainbow Trout, 4-1 Honeymoor, 9-2 Granite, 8-1 Rusticon, 14-1 others.

* Doubtful runner

Fakenham selections

From Our Racing Staff

1.30 Grinling Gibbons. 2.0 Cregg Park. 2.30 Straight Fair. 3.0 Wintergreen. 3.30 Trustful. 4.0 Peter The Great.

Southwell results

[illegible]

TOTE: Win, £1.90; places, 39p, 18p, 16p. J. A. C. Edwards, at Leominster. 6l, 5l.

1.30 (1.31) ELM TREE HURDLE (Div I: Part II)

Moat Hero, br g, by Centaurus—Moat Star (Mrs J. Ridehalgh), 7-10-12 .. M. Dickinson (4-1) 1
Turasco .. Mr G. McCourt (9-2) 2
Mr Wicker .... N. Tinkler (4-1) 3

ALSO RAN: 11-4 fav Ryhall Grange (4th), 9-1 Moray Lodge, 12-1 Persian Twilight, 14-1 Ben Mist, Flying Straight, Tartan Prince, 20-1 Ace China (p), Patterdon, Rollicking, 33-1 Little Sion, Spartan Legend, Iona Flyer. 15 ran.

TOTE: Win, £1.29; places, 24p, 18p, 17p. A. Dickinson, at Gisburn. 1l, 1½l.

[illegible]

The winner was bought in for 900 guineas.

2.30 (2.30) STAR AND GARTER STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £836: 3m 110yd)

Gin Fizz, ch m, by Ebornoozer—Sweet Martini (C. Gilman), 10-9-9 .... P. J. Kelly (5-1) 1
Silberto .... M. Dickinson (8-1) 2
Ben More ...... J. Glover (20-1) 3

ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Prince Reynard (f), 8-1 Good Relations (f), 9-1 Sharny Syke (p), 10-1 Carpette, 12-1 Senior Wrangler, 16-1 Eastern American, 20-1 Kilmore Boy, Nonsuch Hill (4th), Definitely. 12 ran.

TOTE: Win, 65p; places, 27p, 53p, £1.55. G. Vergette, at Market Deeping. 15l, 4l.

[illegible]

Turk, ch g, by Native Prince—Devon Chimes (L. Furman), 5-10-0 .... R. Goldstein (6-1) 1
Irish Quicksteps, K. McCauley (33-1) 2
Tyshoon, .. C. Candy (3-1 fav) 3

ALSO RAN: 9-2 Saragusa, 5-1 Goldburg, 6-1 Grecian Fighter, 9-1 Primerello, 12-1 Trail Blazer (p), 14-1 Creevelea, William The Red (f), 16-1 Birdcage Walk (p), 33-1 Say Boy (4th), Swirl, Blazing Gold, Balanair (p). 15 ran.

TOTE: Win, 84p; places, 21p, 39p, 17p. L. Furman, Humberside. 12l, 7l.

4.0 (4.1) ELM TREE HURDLE (Div II: Part I: Novices: £340: 2½m)

Aloha Prince, b h, by Native Prince—Welcome Jess (Mrs R. Gooch), 5-10-7
S. Smith-Eccles (6-4 fav) 1

[illegible]

4.30 (4.31) ELM TREE HURDLE (Div II: Part II: Novices: £340: 2½m)

New Henry, b h, by Henry The Seventh—Pampered Angel (T. Fogarty), 6-10-12
D. Sunderland (3-1 fav) 1
Physicist .. R. Champion (5-1) 2
Woodflame .. M. Dickinson (4-1) 3

ALSO RAN: 4-1 Honeymoor, 7-1 Poppies Love (p), 10-1 Beach Guard (p), 11-1 Bowdingo, 20-1 Aske Hill, Kings Drum, Henry's Pal (p), 33-1 Couteau (4th), Mommin, Bell Flower (s), Petit d'Or (p), Duke Of Winooka (p). 18 ran.

TOTE: Win, 39p; places, 13p, 17p, 35p. P. Bevan, at Uttoxeter. 8l, 10l. Right Regal did not run.

TOTE DOUBLE: Mayso, Lanky Lad. £10.05. TREBLE: Moat Hero, Gin Fizz, Turk. £74.85.

Latest European snow reports

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off piste	Conditions Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm)	°C
Andermatt	60	310	Good	Powder	Good	Cloud	2
Powder snow on hard base							
Flims	20	210	Good	Powder	Fair	Snow	1
Excllent skiing conditions							
Grindelwald	20	95	Good	Powder	Fair	Cloud	2
Upper slopes superb							
Igls	7	70	Icy	Varied	Poor	Cloud	-5
Icy patches on lower slopes							
Isola 2000	245	345	Good	Varied	Good	Cloud	-2
Good skiing on piste							
Niederau	40	100	Fair	Varied	Fair	Fine	0
Good hard piste skiing							
St Anton	60	220	Good	Varied	Good	Snow	5
Good skiing, poor light							
Zermatt	60	190	Good	Good	Good	Snow	1
Excellent skiing conditions							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from other sources:

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Berchtesgaden	15	60	Fair	—	-2
Garmisch	18	80	Poor	Cloud	-8
Hindelang	15	45	Fair	—	-4
Kleinwalsertal	90	140	Good	—	-4
Mittenwald	10	70	Fair	—	-2
Oberammergau	10	70	Fair	—	-9
Oberstdorf	29	80	Good	Cloud	-6
SWITZERLAND					
Adelboden	25	100	Good	Snow	1
Anzère	100	280	Good	Cloud	-9
Arosa	120	130	Good	Cloud	-9
Braunwald	80	130	Good	Cloud	-5
Champéry	15	130	Good	Cloud	-1
Chateaux d'Oex	40	100	Good	Cloud	-4
Disentis	30	200	Good	Cloud	-2
Engelberg	20	100	Good	Cloud	-2
Kandersteg	30	50	Good	Snow	0
Klosters	80	190	Good	Sun	-5
Lenk	40	110	Good	Snow	0
Lenzerheide	70	110	Good	Cloud	-8
Les Diablerets	50	160	Good	Snow	-1
Leysin	40	100	Good	Snow	-5
Morgins	80	140	Good	Snow	2
Mürren	70	100	Good	Snow	-10
Pontresina	80	180	Good	Sun	-10
Saanenmöser	60	140	Good	Snow	-4
Saas-Fee	95	200	Good	Cloud	-7
St Cergue	40	70	Good	Snow	0
St Moritz	90	140	Good	Cloud	-11
Savognin	25	90	Good	Cloud	-6

SCOTLAND: Cairngorm: Main runs and lower slopes all complete. New snow on a firm base. Vertical runs 1,600ft. Moderate snow drifting on access roads. Snow level 1,500ft. Glenshee: Main runs all complete. Ample nursery areas on lower slopes. New snow on a firm base. Vertical runs 1,000ft. Slight snow on access roads. Snow level 1,500ft. Glencoe: Main runs and lower slopes all complete. New snow on a firm base. Vertical runs 1,800ft. Access roads clear. Snow level 1,400ft.

Ice hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Buffalo Sabres 3, Chicago Black Hawks 0; Toronto Maple Leafs 5, Cleveland Barons 3; Montreal Canadiens 4, Pittsburgh Penguins 4; Boston Bruins 7, Vancouver Canucks 3.

Law Report February 17 1977 Employment Appeal Tribunal

Early finish by women workers is discrimination against men

Peake v Automotive Products Ltd

Before Mr Justice Phillips, Mrs A. L. T. Taylor and Mr T. H. Goff

A factory which allowed women employees to leave five minutes earlier than men in order to avoid the rush to the factory gates at the end of the day shift, was contravening the Sex Discrimination Act, 1975. Four thousand of the company's 6,000 men and 500 women work on the day shift.

Mr Frederick Barry Peake, a shopfloor worker, of Kenilworth, Warwickshire, successfully appealed against the dismissal by a Birmingham industrial tribunal of his application for a declaration that he was being unfairly discriminated against by his employers, Automotive Products Ltd.

Section 1 of the Act provides: "(1) A person discriminates against a woman in any circumstances relevant for the purposes of any provision of this Act if—(a) on the ground of her sex he treats her less favourably than he treats or would treat a man, . . ."

Section 6(2) provides: "It is unlawful for a person, in the case of a woman employed by him . . . to discriminate against her—(a) in the way he affords her access to opportunities for promotion transfer or training, or to any other benefits, facilities or services, or by refusing or deliberately omitting to afford her access to them, or (b) by dismissing her, or subjecting her to any other detriment."

By section 2 provisions relating to discrimination against women apply equally to men.

Mr Peake in person; Mr Christopher Clarke for the employers.

MR JUSTICE PHILLIPS, in a reserved judgment of the Appeal Tribunal, said that Mr Peake, who had been employed by the company since 1972, applied on April 25, 1976, to an industrial tribunal on the grounds that he was being discriminated against at 4.25 pm each weekday in that the women were allowed to leave the factory at 4.25 and the men had to wait until 4.30.

The Appeal Tribunal's first impression was that the application was unreasonable. But it was not as simple as that. Mr Peake said that it was wrong that such privileges should be accorded to women because they were women. Some men needed the same special consideration in the rush to the factory gates as the women. The Appeal Tribunal realized they had to put aside their preconceptions and take the Act as the only reliable guide.

It was a very complicated guide, and no layman who wished to know his rights and duties would obtain a clear answer by reading it. The industrial tribunal had approached the case on the wrong basis. But they had found as a fact that the arrangements had been made in the interests of safety and that finding was binding on the Appeal Tribunal.

The industrial tribunal had fallen into two errors. They had overlooked the fact that rights under the Equal Pay Act, 1970, and rights under the Sex Discrimination Act were mutually exclusive and that it was necessary, as a first step in considering Mr Peake's application, to see whether he had a good ground on which to make a complaint under the Equal Pay Act. If he had, he could not proceed under the Sex Discrimination Act since the remedies were different. The industrial tribunal had also wrongly thought that the relevant section was section 6(1) (b), but that was concerned only with offers of employment.

The Appeal Tribunal had to consider whether Mr Peake had a valid claim under the Equal Pay Act. If the less favourable treatment of which he complained related only to the payment of money, he could have no claim under the Sex Discrimination Act. A system of equal pay was in operation and the men and women worked the same normal hours. But one could still say that the women were being paid the same for less work—five minutes a day. The reality, however, was that it was not a matter relating to the payment of money.

Even so, Mr Peake would have a claim under the Equal Pay Act if he was doing "like work" with a woman who was permitted to leave five minutes before he was, if that privilege was something regulated by the contract of employment. Thus three questions arose. Was he doing "like work" with a woman? Was the privilege of leaving early a matter regulated by the contract of employment? If so, was the equality clause in Mr Peake's contract prevented from operating by reason of section 1(3) of the Equal Pay Act?

In the absence of findings by the industrial tribunal, the Appeal Tribunal accepted the submission that Mr Peake was doing "like work" with a woman. They also concluded that the practice of women leaving early was not regulated by the contract. Accordingly, Mr Peake could not have brought his complaint under the Equal Pay Act. Since the variation in treatment was due to the difference of sex, section 1(3) did not apply.

The scheme of the Sex Discrimination Act required consideration of whether the act complained of was discriminatory, as defined by Part I of the Act and whether it was rendered unlawful by Part II. There was no doubt that the employers treated Mr Peake less favourably than they would have treated a woman, within the meaning of section 1(1)(a). The question was whether they did so "on the ground of [his] sex". The employers contended that the whole purpose of the alleged discrimination was to ensure safety, and that that was a sensible and practical way to go about it wholly free from any intention to discriminate.

The Appeal Tribunal did not accept that. The employers were confusing the purpose of the act complained of with the factual nature of the act itself. Section 1(1)(a) required one to see what in fact was do[ne] amounted to less favoura[ble treat]ment, and whether it [was] because of the person's s[ex]. It was irrelevant that it [was done] with no discriminatory [motive]. [If] a woman was made t[o stay] behind until all the men [had left] because such a rule appl[ied to] the women and to non[e of the] men, although it migh[t be the] case that it was done [in the] interests of safety, never[theless it] would be done in her cas[e because] she was a woman and n[ot a man]. And so it was in the ca[se of Mr] Peake.

The next question wa[s whether] Mr Peake could bring [his case] within section 6(2). U[nder that] subsection the quest[ion was] whether the privilege [of leaving] five minutes early was [a "bene]fit" or "facility" und[er (a) or] whether to prevent [him] leaving at the same t[ime as a wo]man, or a man at the s[ame time] as a woman, was to su[bject her] or him to a "detrimen[t" under] (b).

In the Appeal Tribun[al's judg]ment it could be clear[ly said that] the employers, that [on the] ground of Mr Peake's s[ex they] had "treated him less f[avourably] than they treated a [woman"] (section 1) whose "rel[evant cir]cumstances were the sa[me" (sec]tion 5(3)) in "refusing h[im access] to the benefit of facility" [(section] 6(2)(a) of leaving at [the same] time as a woman, and [in sub]jecting him to the de[triment] (section 6(2)(b) of n[ot being] allowed to leave at th[at time]. There might be a doubt [as to the] applicability of "facili[ty" but] not of "benefit" which [meant no] more than "advantage".

Mr Peake had made [out his] case under section 6(2). [Such a] conclusion would have [come from] giving the language of [the Act] a restricted constructio[n in] deference to preconceive[d ideas of] what had there been [might] would have been sensib[le in the] field. But in the case of [this Sex Discriminat]ing Act, deliberately in[troducing] new ideas and polic[ies, pre]conceived ideas of wha[t] were at best an uncerta[in guide] and the only sure cours[e was to] follow the words of th[e Act in] accordance with what ap[peared to] be its policy. Occasi[onally it] would produce odd res[ults but] they were the price whi[ch would] have to be paid for such [far-reach]ing reform, enacted wi[thout] detail affecting most de[partments] of life, and with no gener[al] clause enabling tribunal[s to ex]clude its operation.

Mr Peake had made [no money] claim. He had not clai[med com]pensation. The order w[ould be] that the practice was u[nlawful,] that the employers sho[uld dis]continue it within 12 mon[ths, and] that the employers should [consult] with any relevant trade u[nion and] with the Equal Opportunit[ies Com]mission for the purpose [of intro]ducing an agreed alternat[ive prac]tice which did not contra[vene the] Act.

Solicitors: Mr L. H. [...], Leamington Spa.

Grading schemes in equal pay cases

National Vulcan Engineering Insurance Co Ltd v Wade

Before Mr Justice Phillips, Mr B. L. Mackie and Ms P. Smith.

Industrial tribunals should consider the nature and operation of an evaluation study or grading scheme when deciding whether an employer had discharged the onus on him, under section 1(3) of the Equal Pay Act, 1970, of proving that the variation in pay between a man and a woman was genuinely due to a material difference between their cases other than sex, namely that they had been placed in different wage scales.

The employers, National Vulcan Engineering Insurance Co Ltd., lost an appeal against a decision of a Manchester industrial tribunal awarding Mrs Edna Wade, a policy clerk, equality of pay with a male colleague.

Section 1(3) of the Act provides: "An equality clause shall not operate in relation to a variation between the woman's contract and the man's contract if the employer proves that the variation is genuinely due to a material difference (other than the difference of sex) between her case and his".

Mr Martin Collins, QC, and Mr Giles Wingate-Saul for the employers; Mr F. Sharp, union official, for Mrs Wade.

MR JUSTICE PHILLIPS, reading the reserved judgment of the Appeal Tribunal, said that Mrs Wade had been employed since May 19, 1976, as a policy clerk. Her work included the amendment and endorsement of policies of existing policy-holders, the preparation of new policies and other tasks which called for experience, accuracy and care. Finding that she was being paid less than a young male colleague, Mr McCann, she made a claim under the Equal Pay Act, 1970. The industrial tribunal found that both of them were employed on "like work" within the meaning of section 1(4) and that Mrs Wade was entitled to be paid at the same rate as Mr McCann. The employers appealed claiming that the variation in pay was due to a material difference other than sex within section 1(3) of the Act, namely, that each was classified into a different grade.

Claims under the Equal Pay Act were divided into two classes according to whether they fell within section 1(2)(a) or 1(2)(b), being based either on a comparison of the situation of two employees employed on like work, or on being employed on work rated as equivalent, having been given an equal value in an evaluation study. Ordinarily where there had been an evaluation study, one would expect a claim to be founded on section 1(2)(b).

The question was, where a claim based on "like work" was entitled to succeed, subject to the employer discharging the onus upon him under section 1(3), what weight ought to be given to an evaluation study or other scheme as a result of which the woman and the man, although engaged on like work, had been differently treated.

In *Waddington v Leicester Council for Voluntary Services* (*The Times*, December 17, 1976) the Appeal Tribunal said that where remuneration was fixed in accordance with widely negotiated wage scales there would seem to be a strong reason for saying that the case fell within section 1(3)—that the variation was genuinely due to a material difference other than sex.

Once a woman had established that she was being *paid* less than a man in the same employment who was employed on "like work" with her, it was presumed that the variation between her contract and his was due to the difference in sex. The Act formed a code with the Sex Discrimination Act and was the performance in municipal law of the country's obligations under Article 119 of the Treaty of Rome. Thus, when an industrial tribunal came to consider the claim of an employer that section 1(3) was satisfied, the prima facie position had been established that the wo[man was] entitled to the relief clai[med and] that the variation was du[e to the] difference of sex. In [considering] section 1(3) it would be [necessary] to consider whether the [employer] had succeeded in establishi[ng it.] evidence of sex discrimina[tion] it was not necessary for t[he woman] to succeed that she had b[een able] to do so.

It was against that bac[kground] that an assertion by an e[mployer] that the variation was du[e to the] operation of some sch[eme or] arrangement for the pay[ment of] wages had to be judged. [Where] the employer could point t[o a well] developed scheme, especi[ally one] which was jointly negoti[ated and] in which the last word [did not] rest with the managemen[t,] and one in accordance wi[th which] the man and the woman [had been] assessed, the employer [might] might well succeed. The [question] in the present case as w[ell as in] others, was how an indus[trial tri]bunal should approach t[he prob]lem.

It was quite clear that [an indus]trial tribunal ought not t[o act as] a price-fixing agency, or [seek] to revise any scheme or t[o do any]thing but consider whe[ther the] employer, upon whom [lay the] burden of proof, had [satisfied] them of the matters whic[h had to] be established to make [good a] claim under section 1(3).

The onus, and the p[rima facie] finding of discrimination [on the] ground of sex, were vital. [If the] evidence called on behal[f of the] employer did not satisfy [the in]dustrial tribunal that the [variation] was genuinely due to a [material] difference other than [sex, the] claimant would succeed. [There] was no need for her to [prove] affirmatively that the varia[tion was] due to the difference of s[ex. The] Appeal Tribunal rejected [the view] that it was enough for [the em]ployer to establish that th[ere was] a scheme in force for the [fixing of] wages and that the woman['s wages] were fixed in accordance [with it.]

There might well be [circum]stances about the nature [of the] scheme, or the method [of its] operation which left a [doubt in] the industrial tribunal's [mind, in] which case the woman['s claim] would succeed. A tribuna[l should] consider all the circumsta[nces, in]cluding whether the sche[me was] unisex; whether it was [jointly] negotiated; whether it [gave the] final say to the manageme[nt; and] whether it appeared to ha[ve been] fairly operated in relatio[n to the] persons sought to be c[ompared] with the claimant. It w[as only] by looking to see what h[appened] in practice that it was po[ssible to] see whether the employ[er had] really established that th[e varia]tion was genuinely du[e to a] material difference other t[han sex.]

There were circumsta[nces in] the present case which [might] rightly have made the in[dustrial] tribunal doubtful about [the em]ployers' claim that secti[on 1(3)] had been satisfied.

As far as the policy cler[ks were] concerned, what was in o[peration] was not a job grading sc[heme at] all. An examination of [the in]dustrial tribunal's decisi[on and] the notes of evidence show[ed that] it was not the jobs whic[h were] being graded but the ind[ividuals.] There was not really a sy[stem of] job grading except in form, [since] one factor governed the [assign]ment to a grade and the [advance]ment within it, name[ly the] personal assessment of th[e indi]vidual. That was of nec[essity a] subjective judgment by [manage]ment. It was quite clear [that the] way the system operated [in prac]tice was that it was a pr[actical] system based entirely on [personal] assessment.

It was not surprising in [the cir]cumstances that the in[dustrial] tribunal had concluded t[hat the] employers had failed to di[scharge] the onus under section 1(3[) and] had approached the case in [accor]dance with the correct pr[inciples] and the appeal would [be dis]missed.

Solicitors: Addleshaw, [Sons &] Latham, Manchester.

Queen's Bench Division

£132,970 damages for man of courage

Bowker v Rose

Before Mr Justice Talbot

His Lordship, in awarding £132,970 damages to Mr Max Bowker—the highest award ever made for personal injuries—held that social security benefits he was receiving should not be deducted. Mr Bowker of Tilehurst Road, Reading, sued Mrs Vivienne Jean Rose, of New Brighton Road, Emsworth, Hampshire, in whose car he was travelling when it was involved in an accident in 1971. He was then a student of 23.

Mr John Alliott, QC, and Mr James Badenoch for Mr Bowker; Mr Michael Turner, QC, and Mr Jonathan Playford for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE TALBOT said Mr Bowker was severely injured in the accident, but by determination, personal effort and courage he had fought his way back and achieved a measure of independence. He was now employed as an assistant quantity surveyor by Berkshire County Council, who should be highly commended.

Medical evidence was that he had no power at all in the abdominal muscles or lower limbs, and that he had a life expectancy of about 21 years. He lived with the support of a woman-help, who worked on a 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week basis. His Lordship had no doubt that he was a young man of considerable ability and determination and would have gone to the top of his profession as a quantity surveyor.

His Lordship considered, inter alia, the question whether a reduction should be made in respect of an attendance allowance and a mobility allowance received by Mr Bowker under sections 35 and 37(A)(1) respectively of the Social Security Act, 1975. The amounts received totalled £600. Should they be deducted from the special damages and from the loss of earnings claim? In *Parsons v BNM Laboratories Ltd* ([1964] 1 QB 95) it was held, in an action relating to wrongful dismissal, that unemployment benefit mitigated the plaintiff's loss of earnings and his damages must be reduced by the sum thus received. In *Daish v Wauton* ([1972] 2 QB 262) Lord Justice Stephenson, referring to National Health Service benefits, said that ". . . it does seem clear that . . . these benefits should be conferred indenendently both of any loss of earning capacity and of any legal liability in another person to compensate the victim".

It seemed that the present allowances fell more within the *Daish* case. The *Parsons* case should be considered more in the context of wrongful dismissal. Mr Bowker was entitled to the benefits as of right. It was true that for part of his loss he was receiving money from the state and from the defendant, but he had made his contributions to the national insurance scheme, and there was no reason why the defendant should not get the benefit of those contributions.

The total amount of damages awarded should be £132,970.

Solicitors: Thomas Eggar & Son, Chichester; Laurence Graham & Co.

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... the
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THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

...anks cut base rate to 11½ pc ...ut mortgage outlook unclear

...rienne Gleeson

...: move which has been expected over the past ...ys as short-term money ... rates have fallen, the ...g banks yesterday ...l their base rates by a ...o 11½ per cent.

...cut—the third since the ...eek of January—means ...ue chip borrowers will ...ng 12½ per cent for their This compares with the ... cent they were being ...l when the Government ...interest rates to crisis ...in the autumn in an ...: to bring the money under control.

...ver, this further cut in ...tes does not necessarily lower mortgage charges, though the building ...s are expected to con... ...er their next meeting in ...ddle of March that their inflow of funds has recovered substantially over the past month. This follows a drastic fall in the last two months of 1976 and a partial recovery in January and they will want confirmation of the better trend before they are prepared to lower their rates.

Yesterday's move to cut base rates was initiated by Lloyds Bank, which is due to report its profit figures for 1976 today. These are expected to show a sharp rise in pre-tax profits from the £95.5m reported for 1975 to more than £150m; and the other three big clearing banks, which report over the next two weeks, are also expected to show sharply higher profits.

In contrast to the last occasion on which they cut their base rates, the clearers yesterday made no move to widen their "retail margin"—the difference between base rates and the rate offered to small depositors. The latter fell by a point to 8 per cent.

Given the direction of money market rates, action to cut base rates earlier in the week would have come as no surprise. However, the clearing banks pointed out yesterday that they had been reluctant to cut their rates ahead of "make-up" day—on Wednesday—when the banks' asset and liability figures are assembled for monitoring by the Bank of England. Since any vigorous growth in their interest bearing eligible liabilities will incur penalties under the "corset", the banks are anxious not to encourage any significant growth in their lending.

At the moment, however, it seems that this is unlikely to be a major problem. Thanks in part to some juggling with their assets and liabilities, and in part to some run off of the borrowing taken out in the autumn in the expectation of some such move to restrain the banks' activities as the imposition of the "corset", the clearing banks have now trimmed back the growth in their interest bearing liabilities, which are believed to be little in excess of that permitted by the "corset", if at all.

Priority borrowers—commercial and industrial customers—are experiencing no difficulty in obtaining loans, and it was in part to dissuade such customers from going for cheaper alternatives in the money markets that the banks lowered their base rates yesterday.

Financial Editor, page 19

...lt sales cause sharp drop in money supply

...n Whitmore
...l Correspondent

...eavy sales of gilt edged ...s by the authorities led ...arp contraction in the ...supply in the banking ...to mid-January. Al... ...this keeps the Govern... ...mfortably inside its tar... ...monetary expansion in ...rent financial year, it ...ll provoke concern that ...netary squeeze should ...llowed to go very much

...s released by the Bank ...gland yesterday—they ...e six weeks to January ...y that "sterling M3", ...broad-based definition ...y supply, fell for the ...consecutive month. ...lecline over the latest ...from £40,240m to ...l (seasonally adjusted), ...alent to 1.6 per cent ...cates, on the basis of ...ge over the latest three ...that sterling M3 is fall... ...n annual rate of 5 per

...ompares with an annual rate of expansion in the month to mid-December of 4.9 per cent and a peak rate of expansion of 22.2 per cent in September—this latter figure, of course, being the major factor that led to the October crisis measures.

Although seasonally-adjusted bank lending to the private sector did, in fact, rise by about £160m in the latest period, non-bank sterling sight deposits fell by £261m, time deposits by £176m and holdings of certificates of deposits by some £200m.

These falls were caused almost entirely by the diversion of funds into the gilt edged market, where both domestic and overseas investors were buying heavily in the expectation of falling interest rates following the setting up of the sterling safety net.

Over the period covered by the latest figures, the authorities issued three new "tap" stocks—nominal value £1,850m—and so great did the squeeze on the liquidity of the banking system become that the Bank of England was forced to release some £730m of special deposits to ease the strain on the bank's reserve assets base.

The fall in sterling M3 over the six week period now means that it has risen by 5.9 per cent in the first three quarters of the financial year to mid-April. This would indicate that the Government is now easily inside the target of 9-13 per cent growth for the full year that was mentioned by Mr Healey in December.

The other main indication from yesterday's figures is that the Government is also well inside its £9,000m ceiling for domestic credit expansion this year. With substantial purchases of foreign currency for the reserves around the turn of the year, DCE will have fallen appreciably more sharply than sterling M3—and probaby by enough to leave DCE after nine months of the year at well under £5,000m.

Financial Editor, page 19

MONEY SUPPLY

The following are the figures released for the monthly amount of the money stock, seasonally adjusted at the mid-month make-up date. M3 is now taken as "sterling M3" and excludes UK residents' deposits in other currencies.

	M1 £000m	M3 £000m	Percentage change over 3 months at annual rate M1	M3
1976				
Jan	16.3	36.4	4.8	n.a.
Feb	16.9	37.0	21.4	n.a.
March	17.0	37.0	13.3	10.0
April	17.4	37.4	29.6	11.3
May	17.4	37.7	11.6	7.9
June	17.2	37.8	3.6	9.3
July	17.7	38.4	8.3	11.4
Aug	18.0	39.0	16.9	15.1
Sept	18.5	39.8	33.3	22.2
Oct	18.1	40.1	10.1	18.4
Nov	18.3	40.4	7.0	14.4
Dec	18.5	40.2	1.7	4.9
1977				
Jan	18.2	39.6	1.8	—5.0

Coats gets £45m loan to finance expansion

By Our Financial Staff

Coats Patons, the big Glasgow-based textiles group whose interests extend from thread and yarns to fabrics and knitwear, has arranged to borrow £45m in medium-term money from the National Westminster Bank. Some £25m of the money is earmarked to replace existing loans which are coming up for renewal; but the rest will finance capital spending, principally within the United Kingdom.

Mr C. P. Wallace, Coats Patons finance director, said yesterday that the group had spent £16m-£20m on additions to its fixed assets last year, and that the figure was likely to be "quite substantially" higher in 1977. In particular the group was planning to spend money on the extremely successful Jaeger manufacturing and retail operations, on its knitwear division, and on its West Riding yarns and fabrics interests.

The decision to spend in such quantities within Britain comes as something of a surprise, for most of the home-based subsidiaries have had a difficult time over the past 18 months, and there has been some rationalization, particularly in industrial yarns. However, Mr Wallace said yesterday that there had been a dramatic improvement in the prospects for the British divisions since the turn of the year, with orders coming in at a much faster rate.

The £25m to replace existing loans will be supplied in foreign currencies and mainly will be used to finance exports. This will leave the group free to finance its working capital requirements — which are expected to rise substantially this year, mainly as a result of cost inflation—out of its existing overdraft facilities.

The new loans are to be drawn down from the middle of 1977, and will run for five to seven years. Coats Patons will be paying a margin (unspecified, but at a "blue chip rate", says Mr Wallace) over interbank rate.

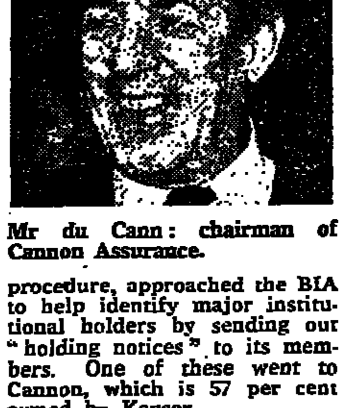
Financial Editor, page 19

Cannon repays profits on 'intuitive' Lonrho loan stock purchases

By Richard Allen

Cannon Assurance has repaid profits of around £10,000 which it made on "intuitive" purchases of Lonrho loan stock last year ahead of the group's decision to redeem the stock.

The deals, which first came to light last July and involved Cannon's parent company Keyser Ullmann and Lonrho in a City controversy, have been the subject of a Stock Exchange inquiry.



Mr du Cann: chairman of Cannon Assurance.

Posting its findings yesterday the Stock Exchange indicated that the investment manager at Cannon, whose chairman Mr Edward du Cann is also a Lonrho director, had bought stock in the market after seeing a British Insurance Association circular which asked for details of all the company's holdings in Lonrho securities.

The Stock Exchange "noted" that Cannon had repaid all profits it made on redemption of the £94,000 nominal involved to the sellers.

A spokesman for Cannon said yesterday: "Our view was that this was a perfectly proper deal and there was nothing to be criticized in the way it was handled.

"But in order to make sure there was no criticism at all and no hard feelings we decided to make the repayments. No pressure was brought on us by the British Insurance Association or the Stock Exchange."

Speaking from the House of Commons last night, Mr du Cann said: "It was a trivial matter which got blown up out of all proportion."

The situation, which resulted in Keyser making policy changes regarding investment in certain stocks, arose when Lonrho decided last February to call in two loan stocks and asked Keyser Ullman to negotiate prices with major stockholders and organize repayments.

Keyser, following normal procedure, approached the BIA to help identify major institutional holders by sending out "holding notices" to its members. One of these went to Cannon, which is 57 per cent owned by Keyser.

Although these notices give no indication of what action was to be taken it was claimed that in this case one of Cannon's investment managers guessed that a repayment was on the way and instructed brokers to make quiet purchases in the market.

A BIA spokesman said last night that the circular involved was one of many issued routinely. "On this occasion someone made an inference which happened to be correct. I wonder how many times people have guessed wrongly?"

Martin dealings: An Exchange inquiry into dealings ahead of the 85p per share cash bid by S & W Berisford for Tom Martin Metals last June has resulted in the transfer of "certain information" to the City Takeover Panel which is now understood to be pursuing the matter. Martin announced that it was in takeover talks several days before the deal was confirmed, during which time the share jumped from 67p to 82p per share.

Wilson team to report this year on City finance

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
Financial Editor

The Wilson Committee intends publishing an interim report—possibly by the end of this year—on what it regards as the central theme of its inquiry into the City, the provision of funds for industry and trade.

Earlier this year, after the committee's first meeting, its chairman, Sir Harold Wilson, made it clear that the committee regarded this subject as of paramount importance.

Other questions, such as whether there should be greater supervision of the financial system and whether big banks and insurance companies should be nationalized along the lines proposed by the Labour Party, would be "late, but not low" on the list of the committee's priorities, he said.

It was clear at the outset that the Wilson Committee would not complete its work for at least two years, possibly three. The decision to try to complete an interim report on the specific area of funds for industry recognizes the urgency of the debate which has already started.

This is particularly so in view of the substantial work already carried out by the National Economic Development Council committee on finance for investment (the Roll Committee) which was set up early last year.

Under Sir Eric Roll this committee, which includes representatives from the trade unions, management, the City and government, was set up with a wide brief to look at finance for industry.

The Roll Committee has looked specifically at countercyclical investment plans and the need to ensure that industry has adequate finance for capital investment.

While much of the Roll Committee's investigations cover the same ground as the Wilson Committee is inquirying into, the view apparently is that the debate on industrial investment will be of such importance by the turn of the year that the latter should make its views known.

As such, the last meeting earlier this month of Sir Harold's committee adopted a degree of urgency not seen at the first meeting. It was decided to write to all providers and users of finance as well as government departments and the Bank of England asking for their written views within two months on the subject of funds for industrial investment.

The Committee will hear oral evidence on this subject before deciding whether it is possible to present an interim report to the Prime Minister, who called for the inquiry into the City in the face of left-wing calls for bank and insurance nationalization to be included in the next Labour election manifesto.

Allied chief spells out £164m investment plan

By Ronald Emler

Mr Keith Showering, chairman of Allied Breweries, yesterday explained how the company would spend the £164m it has earmarked for investment by the end of next year. Since this capital expenditure programme was announced last month, there has been speculation about how the outlay would be split between the company's divisions.

After the annual meeting in London yesterday, Mr Showering revealed that the United Kingdom brewing division had been allocated £145m, of which £46m, the largest single slice of the programme, will be devoted to building pubs and renovating existing houses and hotels.

Some £31m is devoted to improving and increasing capacity at breweries, notably lager capacity. Mr Showering revealed that this greater emphasis on lager "had been put in band at our Romford brewery".

While all seven of the company's breweries will receive a portion of the outlay it seems clear that Romford, and the largest of the brewing division plants at Burton, will get the lion's share of the £31m.

Mr Showering said that £23m would be spent on casks, fork-lift trucks and other brewery equipment, plus £11m on distribution depots which, he had earlier told shareholders, would help the company in future to avoid the distribution difficulties experienced during last year's record summer. Some £20m is to be spent on developing the group's representation in the free trade market, and a further £14m is being devoted to miscellaneous provisions.

Allied's wine and spirits division has been allocated the remaining £19m of the total capital outlay, Mr Showering said. Of that, £13m would be spent on the British market, while £6m would help to expand overseas interests. Doubtless, a large part of this will be devoted to the development of Teachers whisky export potential.

Outside the £164m investment programme, Allied's chairman also revealed that the group would invest £23m in expanding its overseas division, including Skol International and the group's interests in the Dutch brewing and soft drinks markets.

Company News, page 20

BP Canada in pilot oil production project

BP Canada, Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas, and Pancanadian Petroleum are to build a pilot plant to produce heavy oil from the Cold Lake deposits in northeastern Albert by an *in situ* process. The project, which will last about seven years, will use steam and combustion to recover bitumen.

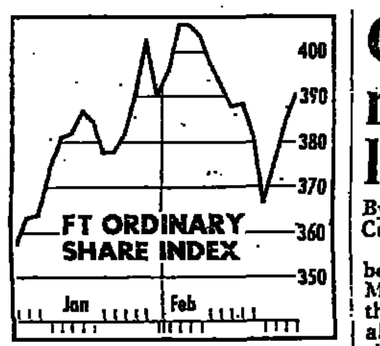
...it-linked ...urance ...s market

...ear unit-linked assur... ...the first time con... ...more to the unit trust ...: sales than direct sales ...usts to the public.

...: released yesterday by ...Trust Association in ...on with the Linked ...rance Group show that ...unit-trust-linked sales ...l for 52 per cent of ...ales of units. In 1975 ...ortion was only 36.5

...of funds linked to unit ...the end of the year ...7m, or 22.6 per cent of ...t trust investment of ...t the end of 1976.

...nancial Editor, page 19



The 24-point gain over the past three days has lifted the *FT* index to within 10 points of the 400 mark, last achieved on February 4. On January 28 the index broke through the barrier for the first time in more than eight months.

...l cuts $290m of ...ina obligations

...sia has signed a ...t with two separate ...covering Pertamina ...of seven ocean-going ...the government ...d yesterday. Under the ...t Pertamina's obliga... ...ve been reduced by ...om $337m (£200m) to

...ina, the Indonesian ...ed oil company, is ...: a number of long... ...aker charters with ...hipping groups because ...ed irregularities and ...s associated with the

...xtiles talks

...textiles committee is ...o be reconvened on ...5 to consider whether ...lti-Fibre Arrangement ...e renewed or renego...

Racal victory in the battle for Milgo

Racal Electronics has won its battle for control of Milgo Electronic Corporation of Miami, Florida.

The British company said last night that it now had slightly more than 50 per cent of the Milgo capital. The other bidder for Milgo, Applied Digital Data Systems has agreed with Racal to extend its exchange offer for Milga shares until 9.45 am New York time on February 22 to permit further discussions of the ownership and control of Milgo, and the resolution of outstanding disputes between Racal and ADDS. Racal has been told by ADDS that should these discussions not lead to a satisfactory resolution of the situation, ADDS will decide whether to retain its interest in Milgo or to tender its holding of Milgo shares to Racal.

Challenge to rise in lead prices

By Wallace Jackson, Commodities Editor

A clash developed yesterday between the British Battery Manufacturers' Association and the London Metal Exchange about the recent sharp rise in the price of lead on the LME.

Mr John Ray, managing director of Chloride Europe and chairman of the BBMA, said that there was no evidence, either from consumption or the level of industrial activity, to justify the £100 increase on prices.

Letters had been sent to Mr Fred Wolff, chairman of the LME committee and Sir Peter Carey, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Industry, asking that the Government, the LME and the Bank of England should act to curb speculation and pointing out that this was done in May, 1974, by limiting non-trade activity.

Mr Wolff said a shortage of physical metal, and not speculative buying, was behind the rise. The rise to over £400 a tonne reflected a shortage of both scrap and primary metal as well as strong buying from the eastern block and the United States.

At the afternoon close cash lead was at £404 a tonne, £16.75 up on the day, and three months was £11 up at £410.50 a tonne.

Fear of haulage 'chaos' after wages decision

By Christopher Thomas

Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, yesterday accepted a recommendation to abolish the Road Haulage Wages Council, which sets statutory minimum pay rates for 220,000 lorry drivers.

The Road Haulage Association immediately gave warning of "chaotic situations" in industrial relations.

The recommendation was published yesterday by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas), which said the council was no longer necessary to maintain a reasonable standard of remuneration for the workers it covers.

It suggests that the private sector should build on existing local agreements and develop them into joint industrial councils, while a national body should be set up for discussion of matters of common interest.

Acas said in its report that the majority of workers in the industry were covered by voluntary collective agreements and the present bargaining powers of the trade unions were sufficient to maintain an adequate level of pay.

The wages council should not be converted into a national joint industrial council for the industry.

The Road Haulage Association last night said the report virtually dismissed the position of the numerous employees who were not trade union members, and failed to anticipate the chaotic situations which would arise in labour relations under such a system.

US shareholders claim £600,000 from Rank

By Christopher Wilkins

American shareholders in The Rank Organisation have begun legal action against the company seeking nearly £600,000 in damages as a result of the offer for sale of new shares made by Rank in April, 1975.

Rank's annual report reveals that the damages claim has been made by 83 plaintiffs resident in the United States in respect of 15 million shares.

The company notes that it "is advised that it has a good defence to the claim", and it has not made any provision for potential liability in its accounts.

Legal action was initiated in the British courts towards the end of last year, but if it is to be fought through the courts at all—which is by no means certain—it is unlikely to be this year.

The dispute has arisen as a result of the exclusion of American shareholders from the £27m offer for sale of shares which was extended to other shareholders in 1975.

In its annual report covering that year Rank stated that it "would have preferred to have made a rights issue to all of its existing shareholders but that this was not found practicable".

It said that any issue of shares to North American shareholders would only have been permitted if registration with the American and Canadian shareholders had previously been made.

"A thorough examination was undertaken by our professional advisers into the consequences of such a registration and it was reluctantly decided that these would have been too onerous.

"In particular the Organisation would have been required to depart from normal United Kingdom accounting practices adopted over many years."

Financial Editor, page 19

Second coal price rise in autumn hinted

By Roger Vielvoye
Energy Correspondent

A 15 per cent rise in coal prices from April 1 was confirmed yesterday and the National Coal Board gave a warning that it may have to seek another increase in the autumn to cover the cost of early retirement for mineworkers.

The NCB said the 15 per cent rise should cover all the board's increased costs provided that early retirement could be financed from increased productivity, now being discussed with the unions.

The size of the increase and the prospect of another rise later in the year provoked a "strong protest" from Sir Arthur Hawkins, the chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, the NCB's largest single customer.

In a letter to Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the NCB, he said the CEGB had been hoping to burn an extra three million tonnes of coal in the coming financial year. "With a 15 per cent price increase, our coal burn is not likely to go up by more than one million tonnes", he said.

As a result of the increase the CEGB, which depends on coal for 75 per cent of its generating capacity, will see its annual coal bill rise by £170m to £1,350m. Electricity boards in England and Wales will have to add about 8 per cent to customers' bills through quarterly increases in the fuel cost adjustment clause in 1977-78, to meet these increased costs.

The coal price increase is also a blow to the British Steel Corporation, whose coal bill last year was slightly less than £280m. BSC said last night that the rise would add about £50m to its annual coal bill. It means that the BSC faces further pressure on its price levels but because of poor market conditions it has been forced to delay increases planned for April until July at the earliest and in some cases has cut prices by offering rebates.

Domestic coal prices will also rise by 15 per cent although summer discount rates will mean that the increases will not be fully implemented until the autumn.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 162.07+1.51
The FT index: 390.4+5.2

Rises

Bankers Inv	4½p to 48½p	Man Ship Canal	20p to 238p
Braithwaite	30p to 270p	Montfort Knit	4p to 42p
Cen & Sheer	2½p to 29p	Phillips Pats	1p to 8p
Doornfontein	20p to 205p	Southvaal	25p to 320p
Fisons	5p to 300p	Stocklake Hldgs	5p to 32p
Gresham Hse	3p to 33p	Tootal	3p to 36p
Hawker Sidd	8p to 506p	Vickers	5p to 160p
Imp Chem Ind	4p to 338p	Vosper	12p to 89p
Kent MP	3p to 27p	Yarrow	9p to 175p
Man Agcy Music	6p to 66p	Whittingham W	4p to 23p

Falls

Burmah Oil	2p to 71p	Smiley R	3p to 126p
May & Hassell	4p to 67p	Porter Chad	3p to 60p
Morris H	4p to 151p	Robb Caledon	2p to 32p
Norwest Holst	4p to 94p	Prov Life 'A'	3p to 107p

Equities advanced in thin trading. Gilt-edged securities were subdued. Sterling dropped 0.15 cents to $1.7055. The "effective devaluation" rate was 43.4 per cent. Gold rose $0.50 to close at $136.625.

SDR-$ was 1.15621 on Thursday, while SDR-£ was 0.678288.

Commodities: Coffee prices rose sharply. Reuter's index was at 1637.4 (previous 1630.3).

Reports pages 20 and 21

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	1.61	1.56
Austria Sch	30.50	28.50
Belgium Fr	64.75	61.75
Canada $	1.79	1.74
Denmark Kr	10.38	9.98
Finland Mkk	6.70	6.45
France Fr	8.72	8.40
Germany Dm	4.27	4.05
Greece Dr	66.75	63.50
Hongkong $	8.15	7.70
Italy Lr	1575.00	1515.00
Japan Yn	505.00	480.00
Netherlands Gld	4.42	4.20
Norway Kr	9.28	8.92
Portugal Esc	58.00	54.50
S Africa Rd	2.14	1.97
Spain Pes	121.00	112.50
Sweden Kr	7.49	7.14
Switzerland Fr	4.44	4.22
US $	1.75	1.70
Yugoslavia Dnr	34.50	32.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

On other pages

DoT investigation raises questions on laws covering licensed share dealings

Two censured over Edward Wood collapse

By Ray Maughan

A highly critical Department of Trade investigation into the affairs of Edward Wood, a quoted engineering company controlled by Mr Desmond Lyons and Mr Bruce Le Marquand, and its involvement with Skibben Winton Construction has raised serious questions about the laws and practices relating to licensed dealers in securities and the statutory requirements for prospectuses.

The DoT inspectors, Mr Derek Clarkson, QC, and accountant Mr Kenneth McKinlay were appointed under section 165 of the Companies Act 1948 to investigate allegations of fraud by the vendors of SWC at the behest of Wood shareholders and the instigation of Mr Lyons and Mr Le Marquand.

But the inspectors concluded that "we are in no doubt that the failures of one or both companies under examination were primarily attributable to the conduct of Mr Lyons, supported by Mr Le Marquand".

The latter, who lost £350,000 through these ventures, escaped reasonably lightly from the inspectors' censure.

But the inspectors reached the opinion that "Mr Lyons is a person unfit to be in charge of shareholders' or investors' funds in any form. On his record, despite much ingenuity, he has never scored any lasting success in any of his schemes; on the contrary he has been censured by the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers over various transactions, including some of those under review".

Before Mr Lyons acquired Wood and was searching for a stock market vehicle, he was censured for a breach of rule 30 of the Takeover Code, where it was found that he had had inside dealings in Rowan & Boden.

Yet the inspectors point out that "when he was debarred from dealing in his own name, and was unable to deal in the name of his own company, he seems to have found no difficulty in operating through Stanhope Finance".

The inspectors established that Stanhope had close connexions with D. F. Lyons, a licensed dealer controlled by Mr Le Marquand, and in January and March, 1973, made offers (on behalf of DFL), of first 6p then 15p for ordinary shares in Edward Wood.

The offer for Wood and the eventual acquisition of SWC were closely connected. Wood, at the time of DFL's offer, was played into members' voluntary liquidation although it remained quoted. When DFL acquired more than 50 per cent, a stay of liquidation was achieved, an integral part of which was DFL's commitment to inject substantial new assets into Wood.

KWC, Mr Lyons's choice as an injection, was a highly geared builder where the secondary bank, First National Finance Corporation, was its chief source of finance.

Central to the original allegations of fraud—and in turn the inspectors' criticisms—was the form of the offer and thet basis of a profit forecast made by the vendors of SWC.

The main cause of the failures of Wood and KWC, the inspectors decided, "was the disastrous venture whereby Wood acquired SWC at a price which included £100,000, payable in cash, followed by the irresponsible conduct of Mr Lyons and Mr Le Marquand in abstracting the remaining funds in Wood in attempts to meet their commitments elsewhere".

As regards SWC, they judged, "Mr Lyons's allegations of fraud on the part of the vendors seem to us ill-founded.

Having regarded all warnings of possible trouble as a vendors' plot to break off the deal "Mr Lyons promptly changed course when the foreseeable problems emerged and alleged that the vendors had deliberately defrauded him by concealing the true position", they added.

As the inspectors discovered "it is indicative of the spirit in which the entire scheme was put forward, namely, that if it was not necessary to say or do something, it was necessary not to say or do it".

They observed that "the statutory requirements for prospectuses are out of date. Because the company in question was not currently quoted, this leaves an obvious loophole".

"We see no reason why the discipline which applies to investors outside the range of quoted securities should be less strict than that of the Stock Exchange—indeed, there are obvious reasons to the contrary.

"We recommend that the standards of disclosure and presentation for all communications to all investors should be raised to a level not lower than that now obligatory in respect of quoted securities", the inspectors concluded.

Mr Lyons became managing director of Stanhope last year and had intended to reapply for his dealing licence. Having been informed that Stanhope's licence was not to be renewed, he consequently resigned, and the Department of Trade is now understood to be considering afresh the question of the company's licences.

In a prepared statement last night, Mr Lyons said: "I was directly responsible for the appointment of the inspectors. I believe their report is essentially untrue and attempts to disguise the true facts. Further, I believe it is fundamentally dishonest and contains unjustified defamatory statements, unwarranted in the public interest."

Successor to postal chief named

By Malcolm Brown

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, yesterday named Mr Denis Roberts to succeed Mr Alex Currall, the Post Office's managing director, posts. Mr Currall is retiring on July 31.

The announcement disposes of one difficulty for Mr Varley, but the Minister is still faced with a major recruiting problem for the corporation's top jobs.

The present chairman, Sir William Ryland, who has already had one extension of his term is due to retire at the end of the year, while Sir Edward Fennessy, deputy chairman and managing director, telecommunications, leaves this summer. Mr Kenneth Young has recently been reappointed as director of personnel and industrial relations, but Mr Varley has not yet found anyone to fill the Giro and finance seats on the board.

Two factors are causing difficulties: the Carter inquiry into the running of the corporation, and the question of industrial democracy applied to state industry boards.

Because of the enormous changes in Post Office structure which may emerge from the Carter inquiry and the uncertainties about how worker-directors would affect the corporation, many potential recruits clearly regard the situation as too fluid and are unwilling to commit themselves.

Fund surplus offers hope for cheaper holidays

By Patricia Tisdall

Discussions which could result in cheaper package holidays are about to take place between the Government's Air Travel Reserve Fund Agency and the Civil Aviation Authority.

At present holidaymakers taking air-inclusive holidays pay a levy of 2 per cent to the fund, set up by the government to reimburse clients of failed air travel organizer licence-holders after the collapse of Clarksons Holidays.

The first annual report of the Agency, issued yesterday shows that it needed to draw on less than £2m of the £15m made available to it from public funds. A subsequent statement by Sir Kenneth Selby, chairman of the Agency said that by last November the Agency had been able to repay this sum. Since then levy contributions have built up the fund to a total of £6.4m.

The report shows that nearly 100,000 holidaymakers were reimbursed during the eight months to March 31 last year. Of these, the majority, 70,644, were clients of Clarksons Holidays Ltd.

In order to reimburse customers who had paid for, but not taken, holidays provided by failed package tour operators, the fund paid out more than £3m during that period. Sir Kenneth reckons that over 90 per cent of the claims resulting from the failure of the Court Line holiday subsidiaries had been paid by last November.

Since then there have been other, smaller tour operator failures, notably of Intercontinental, which called for payments from the fund.

Even so, Sir Kenneth believes he is in a position to begin discussions firstly with the Civil Aviation Authority, and secondly with Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, to see if the levy contributions cannot be reduced

In addition the agency would like to extend the scope of compensation made from the fund. Particular problems have arisen where customers of collapsed air travel organizers were able to make outward journeys but incurred extra expenses from hotels while on holiday or from airlines in making return journeys as a result of the failure.

Technically such cases are not covered by the present statutory provisions governing the fund. These and other instances are cited by the agency as areas where clearer guidance is needed.

Appeal to toolmakers to avert Leyland shutdown

Leyland Cars, faced with a virtual shutdown of the company today if toolmakers carry out their threat to strike over differentials, yesterday made a last-ditch appeal to the 6,000 toolmakers to call off their decision.

Mr Terry Duff, executive member of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, added his appeal to the toolmakers to heed the instructions earlier this week of the union's executive.

Already about 20,000 Leyland workers have been made idle by a number of disputes, although 1,300 striking paint shop workers at the body plant at Castle Bromwich agreed yesterday to return to work on Monday. They have been on strike for 11 days over the sacking of 32 men who refused to take up alternative work.

Leyland plans to begin a phased recall of body plant workers next week, although the virtual shutdown of all plants is threatened if the tool room men strike.

Mr Geoffrey Whelan, personnel director of Leyland Cars, yesterday appealed to the toolmakers to think again.

The company wanted to bring wage levels in its plants into line but this could not be done if workers, like the toolmakers, put their jobs in jeopardy by going on strike.

"We are absolutely determined not to extend the number of negotiations in Leyland Cars. We need fewer negotiations, not more."

The dispute had stopped production of the Mini, Maxi, Princess, Jaguar and Rover 3500. Marina productions at Cowley had been halted by a strike of 150 machinists, with 6,300 laid off.

Ford strike: The Ford plant at Dagenham lost 350 Cortinas and 170 Fiestas last night as the strike by 360 night shift workers began to bite. The walkout by body workers, over the dismissal of a man for allegedly assaulting a foreman, resulted in 2,300 men again being laid off on the night shift.

Europe shipowners place fewer orders in Japan

By Peter Hill

European shipyards have secured more orders from EEC owners in the past three months than community shipowners placed with Japan. This is a sharp reversal of the overall trend which has led to growing pressure from national governments on their shipping industries to support hard-pressed European yards.

The new trend has emerged at a time when Japan is about to raise the prices of the ships it builds for foreign owners in response to demands from the EEC that there should be a fairer sharing of available orders between the two major shipbuilding blocks of the world.

Figures published yesterday show that in the period from November last year to the end of last month, Community owners placed orders for 60 vessels totalling 416,465 tons deadweight with European yards, and only 14 ships totalling 152,840 tons were placed in Japan.

In the previous three-month period EEC owners ordered only 193,650 tons from European yards while 493,791 tons were ordered from the Japanese.

British oil rig personnel paid less than rivals

By Roger Vielvoye

Workers on exploration rigs and platforms in British offshore waters are worse off than their colleagues in Norwegian, German, French, Dutch and Irish structures. A survey of offshore conditions conducted by *Petroleum Times* says British offshore workers lag behind in wages, and also job security, overtime rates and fringe benefits.

Petroleum Times adds that Norwegian offshore workers are the best paid, with the French not far behind. West Germans, Belgians, the Dutch and Irish also figure above.

A comparison of monthly wage rates shows that a roughneck—a semi-skilled worker on drilling operations—is paid the equivalent of $1,115 a month on Norwegian-controlled structures; $939 in Germany, $928 in Ireland, $809 in France, and only $760 in the United Kingdom.

EEC corporation tax plan implications worry MPs

Members of Parliament are being asked to give further consideration to the European Community's draft directive proposing a common structure for corporation tax, because it raises questions of legal and political importance.

A Commons select committee has called for a review because a proposal for levying a withholding tax on dividends at a uniform rate of 25 per cent could have adverse consequences for Britain's balance of payments. They reinforce similar views expressed by a Lords select committee.

At the heart of the anxieties is a requirement on the Inland Revenue to levy a withholding tax as a measure to combat tax evasion.

It would not apply to dividends paid to identifiable investors residing in the member state in which the dividend payment arises, or to dividends paid to parent companies within the Community. But it would apply where dividends are paid to overseas investors in a Community share issuing company.

The Inland Revenue told the select committee that the EEC directive could entail some constraint on national political and budgetary freedom.

Damages sought over £6m failed property deal

A £6m takeover deal for a property company fell through when the property market began to collapse at the end of 1973, the High Court heard yesterday.

Mr Justice Templeman was asked to order an inquiry into the damage suffered by Mr Paul Anthony Rackham, a Suffolk businessman, and J. H. Vavasseur & Company as a result of the failure of the proposed takeover of Roeday Properties, an East Anglian land and development company.

Mr Rackham and Vavasseur, co-shareholders in Roeday, are suing Consolidated Commercial Company (now Peek Foods), of Exchange Street East, Liverpool, Mr Andrew Gordon, its managing director, and Edward Bates & Sons, merchant bankers.

They allege that Consolidated and Edward Bates broke an agreement of December 12, 1973, for the purchase of Roeday for £6m.

They also claim damages against Mr Gordon, alleging that he broke an oral agreement made on December 19, 1973, to vote his shares in Consolidated in favour of the takeover.

The defendants contend that there was never any concluded agreement for the takeover. The case is expected to last at least 14 days.

Mr Jeremiah Harman, QC, for Mr Rackham and Vavasseurs, said the case arose from "the high and palmy days" of late 1973, when there was still a property boom, and before the secondary banking crash, the miners' strike and the Labour Government.

Mr Harman said that Roeday had a short but meteoric rise. Its profits were over £1m in 1972, and £500,000 for the first half of 1973.

Consolidated became keen to buy Roeday, and by early November, 1973, agreement was reached by which Consolidated was to buy 74 per cent of the Roeday shares, and Edward Bates 26 per cent.

The agreement required the transaction to be approved by Consolidated's shareholders.

Mr Harman said that Bates became extremely anxious about its commitment. On December 17, Mr Barber, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced in the House of Commons proposals to tax property speculators. Two days later it was agreed that the purchase price for Roeday should be reduced by £750,000.

In return, Mr Gordon agreed to vote his shares in Consolidated in favour of a resolution approving the deal which was to be put to Consolidated shareholders. But at the meeting the resolution was not put.

The hearing continues.

Balfour Beatty welcomes Saudi price-fixing inquiry

Balfour Beatty, one of the British companies named in reports about allegations of price-rigging in Saudi Arabia, said yesterday it would be pleased to cooperate with the Riyadh Government inquiry already investigating foreign bids for Saudi contracts.

Balfour Beatty, together with the German company MAN, bid for one part of an electrification scheme estimated to be worth several hundred million pounds.

Over the past few days there have been allegations from the Saudi Arabian Government that there may have been collusion.

In yesterday's statement Balfour Beatty said that it had prepared a bid for the electrification of the Asir district in Saudi Arabia in consort with MAN. The bid had been prepared without reference to any other company which tendered for the work.

"The price levels reflect the risks involved on long-term, fixed-price contracts involving assessing future rates of inflation over a five-year period, not only in the United Kingdom and West Germany but also in Saudi Arabia."

Retail spending in final quarter above estimate

Revised figures published yesterday suggest that consumer spending rose rather more sharply during the fourth quarter of 1976 than earlier believed. The second estimate for the consumer expenditure figures, published yesterday by the Central Statistical Office, has been increased £35m to £8.990m at 1970 prices.

This suggests that spending throughout the fourth quarter was running just under three-quarters of a per cent higher than during the third quarter. An 8 per cent increase in spending on alcoholic drink and on fuel and light was mostly responsible for the increase.

CONSUMER SPENDING

The following are figures for the second preliminary estimate of consumer expenditure seasonally adjusted at constant 1970 prices released by the Central Statistical Office yesterday:

			Annual rate of increase over previous quarter
		£m	%
1974	Q1	8,850	−5.8
	Q2	8,841	−1.7
	Q3	8,963	5.6
	Q4	9,057	4.3
1975	Q1	8,989	−3.0
	Q2	8,851	−6.3
	Q3	8,776	−3.4
	Q4	8,758	−0.8
1976	Q1 r	8,876	5.5
	Q2 r	8,812	−2.9
	Q3 r	8,928	5.4
	Q4 p	8,990	2.8

r revised. p provisional.

House prices in relation to income lowest for years

By Margaret Stone

House prices in relation to income are now at their lowest level for several years. Statistics released yesterday by the Department of the Environment show that average house prices were 2.72 times average income in the last quarter of 1976 compared with 3.4 times in 1973, the end of the great house price boom.

The figures, prepared in conjunction with the Building Societies Association, are based on a 5 per cent sample survey of mortgages completed in the last quarter of 1976. This shows that the average house price is now £13,114 although the regional variations range from an average of £10,307 in the Yorkshire and Humberside area to £16,359 in Greater London.

The average advance was 64.5 per cent, which represents an advance of 1.75 times income. The pattern varies widely however, between first-time buyers, who received an average of 78.7 per cent of the asking price, compared with the 55.6 per cent offered to former owner-occupiers.

A three year trend of a decreasing proportion of advances going to first-time buyers was halted last year.

Dry well setback in Celtic Sea search

Hopes of finding commercial quantities of oil and gas in the Celtic Sea have suffered another setback with the announcement from Texaco and British Gas that drilling of the joint well on block 103/2, off St David's head, has been unsuccessful.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bullock: professional engineers must be heard

From Sir Charles Pringle

Sir, Much has already been said and written about the Bullock Report but I would like to take advantage of your columns to say a word on behalf of the engineering profession, as it is the engineer on whom our manufacturing industry depends for technology which ultimately generates their wealth and, therefore, the wealth of this country.

Because of his professional code of conduct and his industrial aspiration to become part of the management of industry and because he generally regards his relationship with his employers as a personal one, the professional engineer in private industry, in common with members of other professions, has not until now generally considered it desirable to join a trade union. This council is therefore deeply concerned that the majority report of the Bullock Committee has polarized industry into employers—or shareholders' representatives—on the one hand and trade unions on the other.

Apart from partaking in the initial vote as to whether or not there should be employee representation on the board, those in the engineering profession who are not members of recognized trade unions are in effect disenfranchized from exercising their rights in industrial "democracy". We feel strongly, therefore, that in any industrial democracy professionals should be recognized as a third force with a vital interest in, and responsibility for, the performance of industry as well as an added responsibility to the public at large.

This is especially true of the professional engineer: not only is he responsible for design and development—without which no technology-based industry can thrive—but he plays also an important part in controlling operations on the shop-floor, in marketing, and in management. Not least of all the chartered engineer is required by his code of conduct to have a proper regard for public health, safety and welfare.

It is essential in our view that in any consultative arrangements established to achieve worker-participation, the professional engineer's voice should be heard and that it should be heeded, irrespective of whether he is a member of a trade union.

A first essential in any introduction of industrial democracy, whenever this should be and in whatever guise, must be to prevent it from becoming a divisive issue within management, within the workforce and within the country as a whole. Moreover, the contribution of the engineering and the other professions must not be denigrated.

It would indeed be tragic if a new form of industrial management, aimed at better consultation, was to fail to achieve the objective of greater efficiency because of inadequate consultation and preparation and a lack of foresight. Provision must therefore be made for full consultation with the professions, and the engineering profession, through the CEI, is ready and willing to partake in any such consultation.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES PRINGLE,
Chairman,
Council of Engineering Institutions,
2 Little Smith Street,
Westminster,
London, SW1P 3DL.
February 11.

Motivation of managers

From Mr Anthony L. Hunt

Sir, The plight and motivation of British managers has had considerable attention in your pages recently. As the marketing manager of a medium-sized company (having previously worked for two "blue-chip" giants) may I make a point about motivation, so far overlooked?

The primary motivation of any manager is the opportunity to confront complex problems which threaten his operation and, by a combination of skill, calculation, cunning, creativity and persuasion, to overcome them. The satisfaction comes from standing back and saying to oneself "I initiated that".

In smaller entrepreneurial companies this satisfaction is still possible. Sadly, in larger companies long chains of command dilute this sense of challenge and achievement, and with them enthusiasm and commitment are diluted, too. To a large extent the motivation of middle management depends upon the scope for initiative which senior management allow them.

Yes, managers want more money—as do doctors and dustmen. Those of us who regularly clock-up 60-hour weeks without overtime have a good case for it, too. But what most managers really want is the chance to manage—to practise their profession as a surgeon or a barrister or an actor practises his.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY L. HUNT,
45 Vernon Avenue,
Woodingdean,
Brighton,
Sussex.
February 11.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

As money supply contracts . . .

lay's money supply merely served to con- hat we already knew— that the corollary for : *stabilization* was that horities would be posed considerable problem in with the resulting movements, internal and l.

would, of course, argue ey have dealt with the 1 in the wrong way and have done far better to kets have their head in xchange and/or interest But they have, with oncessions on interest ruck it out. They will hoping for a slightly ranquil period on the front and looking to a government borrowing *nent in the final months* inancial year to rectify ent depression of the y aggregates—particu- ven that the fall in ly adjusted M3 of 1.6 t is in fact a full 2.3 t on an unadjusted

of course, is going to e position of the banks teresting. Yesterday's to cut base rates was prompted by the fact ling has been fairly flat and that the latest figures (to Wednes- ill have shown the moving rapidly back he "corset". But the figures for the month ebruary are, of course, first in a series of hat make up the final ' limits.

ver else, however, the cuts will be more good the building societies. a third of their deposits mally in tranches of 0,000 and it is these y have been losing to ey markets in a big way past few months. That nay not all return at cal authority rates for remain highly com- —but it looks as if it ot be long before the are back to a target f around £250m-£300m

while, it remains to be the Bank will allow move down today. On of it, the formula robably call for a half t if the Bank chose back into force. But be that it will stand ile the ups and downs ay talks continue.

Sir John Davis, who retires as chairman of The Rank Organisation at the annual meeting to become president: realising property.

)rganisation

—onger ıce sheet

—— Organisation's annual lks of continuing the *reducing borrowings* ealization of property can be done at realis- , which sounds odd in xt of a £40m-plus in- borrowings in the ounts. But Rank points he fall in sterling has onsible for an increase *ings of £52m*—reduced since the year end— e underlying direction d been downwards.

w dramatic the switch ash flow position has lear from the sources of funds statement ws that £70.2m out of *f £78.4m of resources* rated from within the ncluding property and oosals worth £35.2m) l with only £26.3m out al of £92.9m the pre- r.

l, then, net borrowings t £302m against share- *funds of £237m, which* struck after £15.6m exchange losses under rican accounting stand- 3 8, £10.3m having been to the 1976 profit and unt.

as the non-Rank Xerox picture is concerned, *nts confirm how much* rn in trading profits from £16.1m to £32.6m depended upon recovery in the industrial and consumer products division from a mere £669,000 to £11.9m—chiefly thanks to a £6m cut in the losses of Rank Radio International.

All the other divisions were showing ahead as well, however. Leisure services and hotels were 44 per cent ahead (although at £6.7m still below 1972's figure), while property was up by 38 per cent and Butlins by 10 per cent. With the balance *sheet evidently* moving into a sounder phase that should provide a strong base for the shares which at 177p yield 6.2 per cent and sell at less than 9 times earnings.

Accounts: 1975-76 (1974-75)
Capitalization £305m
Net assets £237m (£214m)
Borrowings £302m (£259m)
Pre-tax profit £75.6m (£50.7m)
Earnings per share 20.2p (13.9p)

Linked life

A saving grace

The linked life assurance industry last year contributed more to the growth of unit trusts than did direct sales of units to the public. Out of total net sales of units of £167m last year no less than 52 per cent came from the sale of assurance contracts linked to units, whereas in 1975 business from this source was only 36 per cent.

There are several reasons for this sudden surge of unit-linked business not least the aggressive and successful marketing of single premium bonds where overall sales (including equity, managed, property and gilt bonds as well) doubled last year.

But the fundamental reason is that the unit trust industry *is virtually certain to be* eclipsed by its own offspring while life assurance contracts continue to enjoy their present tax privileges. Unit trusts themselves are a tax efficient investment vehicle and regular premium contracts and single premium bonds combine the tax *advantages of unit trusts* with the tax advantages built into life assurance.

So professional advisers are increasingly going to include linked life assurance in their repertoire; a move which is actively supported by the unit trust groups with linked life *arms. Unit trust investment* may be defined as a long-term operation but there is more evidence to suggest that, in fact, unitholders are very volatile investors. Policyholders, on the other hand, are not.

Linked life's share of gross sales has remained constant at around 25 per cent for the past three years. But it is the net level which counts, and in this context there seems little doubt that if it were not for the stability provided by linked life *sales, the unit trust industry* would now be in a very parlous position with repurchases exceeding sales.

Indeed, it may not be too far fetched to say that had the industry been publicly in a net redemption position that it fundamentally has been for some months vis-à-vis its direct unit *sales, that by now there would* have been a run on the industry with all the implications for confidence that this implies. So everyone has reason to be grateful for the growth of linked life assurance.

Coats Patons

"Cheaper in the end"

"The balance sheet can stand it" was one of Coats Patons' justifications for going to its bankers rather than its shareholders yesterday: and undoubtedly the balance sheet can, for *all that the impact of currency* depreciation has put up the nominal value of overseas borrowings, and working capital requirements have already been rising to reflect the effects of higher costs.

The group takes the view that under these circumstances borrowing provides the best means to expansion and is "cheaper in the end"—a view which, with the shares standing at 65½p last night for a p/e ratio of probably less than 6½ on last year's earnings, is entirely justifiable.

It has emerged from the great textile recession with one of the best balance sheets in the business—thanks not merely to a strong overseas content, which helped to smooth out the worst aberrations of the home market, but also to an early decision to concentrate on liquidity.

That decision, pursued to the point of cutting out the final dividend for 1974 in the face of massed institutional opposition, left borrowings at the end-1975 balance sheet date almost 40 per cent down on those of the preceding year, at rather less than a third of shareholders' funds. So the fact that Coats Patons is now incurring new borrowings probably says more for the state of the textile sector than any amount of healthy profit figures from its less conservative competitors.

Standard Trust

Still arguing

Standard Trust and the British Rail Pension Funds are still talking about the bid which the latter may make for the former: but the scope for negotiation is growing narrower.

For although the Pension Funds' latest suggestions on terms—a price set at 96 per cent (as against 95 per cent originally) of a net asset value calculated after the deduction of prior charges at the bid *price (as against par originally)* —go some way to meeting the original objections of Standard's board, the parties are still a long way from any meeting of the minds on the treatment of contingent liabilities (to capital gains tax and the dollar premium surrender).

The Funds argue that they should be stripped out in calculating net asset value: Standard's board takes the view that there is no reason why the company's shareholders should suffer because the Funds want to change the status quo.

And they claim that an estimated price of 137p on the Funds' formula *is still 15 per* cent below the net asset value of Standard's shares if the status quo is maintained, and that it represents an inadequate reflection of the value of the company's assets to its shareholders. The market last night was valuing them at only 129p, but there are likely to be further developments.

Taking the heat out of the sun

The government is to increase its spending on solar energy research to £6m over the next four years. Kenneth Owen reports

There is an awful lot of solar energy about, a long-awaited Department of Energy report* confirms, but much of it will remain very difficult to tap.

Fossil fuels can be regarded as stored solar energy, since they are the accumulated products of prehistoric photosynthesis. The total fossil fuel reserves, which might be used by mankind for a few hundred years, are the equivalent of no more than a few days' sunshine over the earth.

The solar "input" to the earth provides the driving force for wind, waves and rain. Indirectly, the sun is already exploited extensively in agriculture and forestry, in the field drying of crops and in the incidental heating of buildings.

The report, which is published today, shows that the problem in any attempt to exploit solar energy, is thus not one of developing from scratch an unfamiliar, novel resource, but rather of intercepting and converting a very small fraction of the total radiation before it is dissipated. Only *0.01 per cent of the total would* meet the world's present needs.

The United Kingdom receives a surprising amount of solar energy, the report points out. The annual input is about half that of Australia or India, or a third that of the Gulf States (the sunniest part of the world). Expressed another way, it is about 80 times the country's *present total energy demand.*

Against this, the radiant energy is intermittent and diffuse and so is difficult and expensive to recover.

In the United Kingdom the problems are particularly acute. There are wide variations between summer and winter; frequent overcast conditions; and a high population density (which limits the area of land which can be devoted to some methods of solar collection).

Despite these problems, the authors of the report estimate solar energy could make a *significant contribution (about* 2 per cent of present requirements) within 25 years. This would be "with a minimal disturbance to existing life-styles and institutions".

At the cost of greater disturbance and with vigorous exploitation—and subject to more detailed study—the contribution might conceivably be increased tenfold in the longer term.

Three main routes to the exploitation of solar energy are examined in the report—its collection as heat, its conversion to electricity by photovoltaic action and its conversion to fuel by photosynthesis of "energy crops".

As reported in previous articles in *The Times*, solar heat collectors are commercially available and can contribute usefully to the supply of domestic hot water. Pilot schemes are operating to test and demonstrate the value of solar heating, but standards for *defining or measuring the per*formance of solar water heaters have not yet been established.

Widespread use of solar water heaters could result in savings of up to 2½ per cent of present primary energy needs, the report says. But the market penetration rate is likely to be slow until such heaters are cost-effective, which (in general) they are not at present.

As for space heating, the report says that in spite of the unfavourable climate partial if not full solar heating of buildings is technically feasible and could become economic in the future.

"The potential savings of primary energy in this area which could result from a combination of measures to reduce heat loss, the use of solar heat collection and better heat management are substantial, since domestic space heating alone consumes 17 per cent of present primary energy requirements", the report says.

*On photovoltaic energy con*version, the report confirms that at present the silicon cell is the most promising device for converting solar energy into electricity. But, for the economic production of power on a large scale the present manufacturing costs of panels of solar cells are up to 1,000 times too high.

"Whether deployed in centralized arrays or at the point of use, the cost target for total systems in the United Kingdom *lies in the range 70p to £2.50* per square metre at 1975 prices."

Even if collector costs are eventually reduced, such devices cannot be considered seriously as a prime source of electricity in the United Kingdom for five main reasons, the report says.

First, output is at a maximum during the summer months, when demand is lowest. Secondly, even in summer, conditions in the United Kingdom *are such that the output will* change very rapidly, because of cloud shadowing.

Thirdly, elaborate control systems, probably backed by storage and an alternative supply, would therefore be necessary to compensate for the short-term unreliability of the solar input. This would increase the cost of the overall system.

Fourthly, since the supply from photovoltaic devices is not firm, they must be regarded as a way of saving fuel and alternative firm sources would be required. To be acceptable, amortized capital charges must therefore be less than the fuel costs in the alternative, which sets even more stringent cost targets.

Fifthly, a large assembly would need a substantial area of land; collectors providing an electrical output of 1,000 megawatts would cover an area of *at least 100 square kilometres.*

The most likely application of photovoltaic devices, once they have been developed to make them competitive in cost, the report says, will be in the supply of fairly small amounts of electricity on a local scale.

Finally, the report considers the complex photosynthetic processes of plants, algae and certain bacteria which use solar energy to convert atmospheric carbon dioxide and water into organic matter or "biomass". Solar energy is thus stored in the biomass for possible future use.

Food (for human or animal consumption) is one evident use of this stored energy, but there are other ways in which the energy may be used more directly. These range from the traditional burning of wood to a variety of chemical or biological methods for extracting oils, gases or alcohols from the biomass.

The whole "energy crop" concept should be analyzed in more detail, the report concludes.

**Solar energy: its potential contribution within the United Kingdom.* Department of Energy, Energy Paper No 16. HMSO, £3.

The author is Technology Correspondent of The Times.

Two Taiwanese girls put their umbrella to a novel use; foil-lined it attracts sufficient sunshine to cook rice.

Industrial strategy 5: chemicals

North Sea as the catalyst for heavy investment

Peter Hill

Mr David Steel, the British Petroleum chairman, surprised many people in the chemical industry (including a number of people within the group's own chemical subsidiary) with his revelations at the end of last month that the group was to spend £2,700m in the United Kingdom over the next five years, with nearly half being spent on chemicals.

But the oil chief's announcement was music to the ears of Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, and cohorts of civil servants at the Department of Industry who have been vigorously pushing for the chemical industry to make a major and tangible contribution to the development of the Government's industrial strategy.

Essentially the Government, and Mr Varley and Mr Wedgwood Benn, his counterpart at the Energy Department, see the chemical industry not only spearheading increased levels of investment, but by taking advantage of feedstock from the North Sea, making a major contribution to the nation's balance of payments through increased exports.

Back in November last year Mr Varley underlined the importance attached by Whitehall to the industry's contribution when he told MPs: "*This is a great opportunity* for our industry and the Government intends to encourage this increased investment and the related downstream developments to provide greater added value in exports and more jobs."

He continued: "It will be in *the national interest that the* right industrial projects take place at the right sites, on time and on a commercially viable basis.... A key factor will be the availability of ethane and other associated heavy natural gases from the North Sea oil fields. We see ethane as a premium feedstock for ethylene manufacture which could lead to further petrochemical expansion."

At the heart of the Government's policy towards the industry in relation to the industrial strategy is the construction of four new large ethylene crackers in the United Kingdom by 1985—in addition to the one being built by ICI jointly with BP on Teesside which is due to start commissioning at the end of this year or early next year.

The Government's thinking for petrochemical industry development is based on the availability of secure feedstocks from North Sea oil and gas; a number of attractive coastal sites for petrochemical development and membership of the EEC, which would not only provide an outlet for the production from the projected crackers and their downstream production facilities, but would also (hopefully) attract overseas companies to invest in the United Kingdom.

In its report last year, the Chemical Industry "Little Neddy" (in a report which preceded the flurry of subsequent sector working party reports on various aspects of manufacturing industry) suggested that production of offshore crude oil could provide adequate gas and gas liquids to support between two million and three million tons a year of ethylene capacity. On the basis of high growth estimates at that time (on which chemical industry planners expressed some reservations) European ethylene demand in 1985 was projected at about 28 million tons.

Linked to the Government's aspirations for high levels of spending on the four cracker plan is the possibility of constructing a huge gas gathering pipeline system drawing supplies from a number of North Sea fields at a cost, estimated a year ago, at about £2,500m. Decisions on this grandiose scheme favoured by the British National Oil Corporation and British Gas are still some way off.

Ethylene is one of the chemical industry's basic building blocks. It is used in about one-third of the petrochemicals industry's products and in the United Kingdom and Europe is produced mainly from liquid petroleum feedstock in the form of naphtha or gas oil.

But ethane is widely used as a feedstock for ethylene in the United States and with ample supplies from the North Sea the Government is anxious to promote ethane-based crackers, although this route has the disadvantage in that it does not produce propylene as a co-product which is another important building block for downstream processing.

There has been considerable scepticism within the industry on the Government's four cracker philosophy not least on the grounds of costs for a massive gas gathering complex and the potential in export markets for ethane based ethylene. Since the Government accepted the high growth projections, European demand forecasts for ethylene in 1985 have been revised downwards to not more than 20 million tons a year.

Within the industry there is now a feeling that if the Government's aspirations are to be met, a case for certainly two additional crackers can be made, possibly with scope for a further two at a later stage but much will depend on the willingness of overseas chemical producers selecting the United Kingdom as a base for their development.

Senior executives within the industry warn of the dangers of the Government and the industry nailing their flags to the mast of the four cracker concept (at the expense of other developments) particularly since vast slabs of ethylene capacity tend not to be the most profitable elements of investment and are susceptible to over capacity problems.

Another element in the longer term equation must be the ambitious development plans for petrochemical projects among members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries from which a considerable volume of exports can be expected.

Dow Chemicals, the American concern, has been carefully looking at building an ethane-based cracker in the United Kingdom for many months while Esso Chemical, too, is progressing with plans. BP has indicated that its investment plans provide for a cracker project too (almost certainly on a partnership basis) but whether there are two, three or four more crackers, industry planners stress that the decision for the fourth need not be taken until about 1981, although trade union leaders and some Whitehall officials are pressing for an earlier commitment.

Meanwhile, within the Neddy framework, a petro-chemicals working party which brings together existing sector work*ing parties is being established* and there is a strong feeling that there is considerable scope for developing the United Kingdom as a location for the production of speciality organic chemicals. At the same time the plastics industry, through its Little Neddy, is *looking at the prospects for* increased capacity in thermoplastics production.

Business Diary: IHA's Kennington • East, west, pounds are best

es to plan *today* the Houses Association will r Kennington, 45 year- l of corporate finance childs, as its new chair- avid MacDonald, of Hill has completed his two- ure as chairman of the l apart from that be- important secondment or-general of the Take- el on April 1.

HA, once simply the association for those in what was (once) ng new issue business *pted in recent* years adened its role so as ne a forum for cor- inanciers. As such, its committee includes nous names from the and merger advice

from MacDonald and ton, there are people by Brooks of Kleinwort David Ewart of Guin- thon, John Gillum of Montagu, Tom Manners ds, Graham Walsh of Grenfell, and Geoffrey of Schroder Wagg. ngton is described by a e as "terribly able" there is a hidden prob- r will find it". And s there are likely to be he next couple of years, in formulating the evi- which the IHA intends submitting to the Wilson committee.

Signatories

Alexander Maslov is back in London at the moment with some thoughts for exporters *with eyes* on the Russian market and for the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

Maslov was in London for four years up to 1975 as the director of Moscow Narodny Bank responsible for foreign exchange. Since May he's been chief foreign manager of Vneshtorgbank, the Soviet Bank for Foreign Trade.

He's here at the moment for two signings, one with Constructors John Brown and the other with Williams and Glyn's Bank, in connexion with the same project, a £50m polyethylene plant to be built at Kazan by the former and largely financed by the latter.

Maslov told Business Diary yesterday he wasn't at all keen on the plans of Denis Healey and the ECGD for persuading the likes of Williams and Glyn's to finance in currencies other than sterling, particularly United States dollars and *Deutsche marks.*

He saw the scheme raising "additional difficulties" for British exporters to the USSR quite apart from considerations such as price or technology.

In for a penny, in for a pound: Williams and Glyn's Tony Killick, CJB's managing director Jack Melbourne and Vneshtorgbank's Alexander Maslov in London yesterday.

The Kazan deal, like most UK-USSR cooperations, is financed in sterling in the wake of the Wilson-Brezhnev trade deal completed two years ago almost to the day. Under this about £1,000m was earmarked for financing sterling deals with the Russians over five years, although with three to go less than a fifth has been used.

ECGD at the Chancellor's bidding would like to see even *UK-USSR deals carried out in* foreign currencies as interest rates are lower and the burden on the British taxpayer of the resultant credits is less. Customer countries with inflation rates lower than our own like to borrow sterling and pay back in ever cheaper sterling.

Tony Killick, deputy director of Williams and Glyn's international banking division, said he understood the reason behind the pressure from ECGD, but felt there ought to be flexibility where a deal might otherwise be endangered.

Sweet sorrow

Stan Mowatt is, we hear, to quit as group managing director of the loss-making Barker & Dobson confectionery and grocery group.

Mowatt who turned to company doctoring after he cut loose from consultancy with Cooper Bros, is to return to consultancy through his own firm, Spreebrook.

He says that he is parting amicably with B & D chairman Ronnie Aitken after staying twice as long as the year he originally planned to spend with the group.

Mowatt, who is 38, joined at a time when it was clear that B & D was heading for big losses and was due to lose both its then chairman and chief executive. The new boy became group MD in January last year.

It seems unlikely that Mowatt will be replaced. He is confident that B & D can function well under Aitken, who is non-executive, and the directors who head the now much slimmer divisions.

These include Neville Cohen (retail) and Bill Kenyon (confectionery). The retail division's Oakeshotts grocery chain has been pruned by about two-thirds to 40, releasing badly-needed cash.

Mowatt sees a "fairly firm basis for the future" of B & D, which reduced losses in the half-year to October 2 from £1.6m to £609,000.

He told Business Diary that he enjoyed his time with the group even though the going was "pretty tough". Nevertheless, his future doctoring plans do not have room for being chief executive of anything other than one of his own enterprises.

Deed of title

At a time when there is growing pressure for the abolition of the Upper Chamber there are still trade associations for whom there is nothing quite like a *lord.*

John Bellamy, director of the Federation of Wholesale and Industrial Distributors, has stepped down from the presidency—hitherto an internal affair—in favour of a noble outsider.

He is Lord Harmar-Nicholls, former Tory MP for Peterborough and junior minister and a director of the family firm of paint wholesalers.

The federation was set up in 1950 with the blessing of the then Chancellor, Sir Stafford Cripps, to present to him and his successors the views of wholesalers. Since then, however, it rather looks as if government has stopped listening.

The 22 trade associations in the federation are annoyed, for instance, that manufacturers are granted capital allowances by the taxman for new warehouses, but wholesalers are not.

Barclaycard sent a note with a replacement credit card which says: "Thank you for telling us that you have lost a Barclaycard. The old Barclaycard should be destroyed by cutting. Do not attempt to use it."

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Bear closing behind a thin rise

Base rate cuts from the clearing banks kept share prices relatively firm in a thin and largely technical day's trading.

With the "bears" anxious to close down their positions, the *FT* Index quickly moved ahead and by midday it stood 5.3 higher. The banks' move brought a near three-point gain over the next hour, but thereafter prices drifted and by the close the index was 5.2 up at 390.4.

Gilts were also in a restrained mood and by the close most stocks were at, or just below their overnight levels. At one stage, short dates looked as if they might go easier, but the base rates news brought a touch of firmness and by the close most prices were little changed. "Longs" opened easier and then went back to all-square. Late in the day, reports, of possible trouble in the bread industry brought a precautionary mark-down of one-eighth.

News of a further delay in the Shipbuilding Nationalization Bill gave a special boost to London & Overseas Freighters and the shares rose 4p to 52p. Its shipbuilding company, Austin & Pickersgill, builds the SD14, which many consider to be Britain's best-ever cargo ship design and for which orders stretch well into the 1980s.

Equity dealers said that after the 24-point rise of the past three days, most shares were looking very tired. It was, they said, another case of over-reaction, this time to the 15-point slump at the start of the week.

The prospect of a further delay in the Nationalization Bill brought a generally firm response from shipbuilding issues. The best gains came from **Vosper**, up 12p to 89p, **Yarrow** 9p to 175p, **Hawker Siddeley**, interested through the aircraft section of the Bill, 8p to 506p, **Vickers** 5p to 160p and **Swan Hunter** 3½p to 54p.

But two which did not join in the general advance were **Robb Caledon**, which lost 2p to 32p, and **Hawthorn Leslie**, which was unmoved at 30p.

In the financial sector, the clearing banks gained ground on the base rate cuts, the exception being **Midland** which held steady at 268p.

Of the others **National Westminster** put on 3p to 228p, **Lloyds** 4p to 212p ahead of todays figures, and **Barclays** 5p to 260p. Some of the overseas banking issues were in good form, notably **NSW Bank**, firmer by 14p to 392p, **Australia National Bank** 5p to 210p, **ANZ Group** 4p to 270p and **Standard Chartered** 7p to 312p. **Hambros** gained 3p to close at 158p.

Lower interest rates gave a boost to the property pitch where **Hammerson "A"** firmed 7p to 373p, **Great Portland** 4p to 218p and **Haslemere** 3p to 182p. But **Bernard Sunley** fell back 3p to 126p after its interim statement, partly on disappointment on the lack of bid news.

Buildings were another sector to gain strength from interest rate considerations with housebuilders **Barratt Developments**, up 5p to 72p, particularly prominent. Favourable talk on next week's figures helped **Marchwiel** to close 6p ahead at 133p.

On the electrical pitch, **Ultra** shot up from 75p to over 100p on speculative interest which was later vindicated by news of an approach. The shares, though easier, still closed 11p to the good at 86p.

Other electricals to gain ground were **Racal**, now on the last lap of its Milgo takeover battle, 7p up to 285p, **Decca** better by 13p to 250p, **Reyrolle Parsons** 8p to 140p, **Rank** 7p to 177p in front of the report and **Thorn "A"** 6p to 238p. Mentioned here, **MK Refrigeration** were 4p higher at 74p after figures.

Stock commanding speculative interest included **Mams**, up 6p to 66p, **LRC** 3p to 67p, and **Braithwaite Engineering** where the jump was no less than 30p to 270p. News of a New Zealand stake helped **Corn Exchange** to rise 8p to 134p, **Owen Owen** went ahead another 2p to 84p in spite of the bid denial reported here and **Stanneylands** held steady at 28½p after news of a counter offer from Greenall Whitley, worth 30p.

In shippings, **Furness Withy** were just a penny harder at 233p after news that Euro-Canadian was to cut its stake, while **Stag Line** was a centre of speculative interest and jumped 15p to 160p. **Manchester Ship** put on 20p to 238p after its earlier strong statement.

Textiles had **Coats Patons** 1½p to the good at 65½p after news of a bank loan while **Carrington Viyella** continued to reflect its results with another 2p gain to 29p. But **Cornell** slipped 2p to 11p after a profits setback.

In firm foods, **Associated Dairies** were a strong market again, rising 12p to 246p, while in motors **Rolls-Royce** added 2½p to 64p, on its rise in export orders and **Smiths Industries** met with investment demand to add 9p to 136p.

Laurence Scott, the electrical machinery and control gear group, has been noticeably firm of late, closing at 59p, the 1976-77 peak. It is known that, for the year to March 31, profits will easily beat the annualized £1.4m profit made in 15 months, but it is also thought by some that one buyer is steadily accumulating his way to a stake of around 10 per cent.

After its report, **Allied Breweries** firmed a point to 63p, while in papers **De La Rue** gained another 6p to 328p, and **W. H. Smith "A"** ended 4p better at 358p. The best of stores were **Allied Retailers**, up 6p to 80p, **Suits** 5p to 70p, **United Drapery** 4p to 62p and, after Wednesday's meeting, **Burton "A"** which rose 4p to 63p.

Brokers stole the limelight in insurances with 6p gains from newcomer **Willis Faber** at 233p, **Matthews Wrightson** at 202p and **Sedgwick Forbes** at 248p. **Hambro Life** jumped 7p to 202p, while **Sun Alliance** added 3p to 400p and **General Accident** ended 2p ahead at 172p.

The best of the leaders were **Fisons** up 5p to 300p, **Glaxo** 5p to 442p and **ICI** 4p to 338p.

Equity turnover on February 16 was £69.55m. (14,789 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were BAT Dfd. ICI, BP, Tate & Lyle, RTZ, Vickers, Barclays, Shell, Burmah, Thorn "A", Scottish & Universal, Imperial Group, De La Rue, Beecham, Allied Breweries, Rolls-Royce, Marchwiel, Ultra Electronic, British Land, LRC International, Serck and Carrington Viyella.

Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Ord div	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year
Bogod-Pelepah (10p) Int	0.27	0.25	—	—	0.8
Cornell Dresses (5p) Fin	Nil	0.12	—	0.3	1.12
Garford-Lilley (5p) Int	0.17	0.17	30/3	—	0.64
HT Investments (25p) Fin	3.75	3.0	7/4	3.75	3.0
MK Refrigeration (10p) Fin	1.36	1.35	4/4	2.72	2.51
Newbold & Burton (25p) Fin	1.43	1.3	5/4	2.5	2.27
Nigerian Elec (£1) Sec Int	6.82	5.2	4/4	11.37	9.75
Nolton (25p) Int	0.27	0.27	5/4	—	1.65
River & Merc Tst (25p) Fin	4.5	3.85	2/4	7.0	6.25
River Plate & Gen (25p) Fin	3.8	3.35	31/3	5.0	4.45
Bernard Sunley (25p) Int	1.65	1.65	4/4	—	3.94
Telephone & Gen (25p) Fin	5.5	5.1	30/3	8.5	7.0
Temple Bar Inv (25p) S Int	1.0	—	29/3	—	5.0
Wm Whittingham (12½p) Fin	0.42	—	—	0.42	—
S. W. Wood (20p) Int	1.5	1.5	31/3	—	3.46

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.54.

Whittingham thinks housing slump over

By Richard Allen

William Whittingham, the long-suffering Wolverhampton house-builder, has dragged itself back into the black at last.

The group whose land-buying spree in the last housing boom nearly brought disaster has turned a £32,000 first half loss into a pre-tax profit of £492,000 in the year to October 31.

Turnover went up 20 per cent at £13.3m, but much more important was the absence of transfers to reserve—£1.4m last year—to compensate for reductions in land values.

Last year's loss was £915,000 and the previous year's deficit amounted to £70,500.

Celebrating the recovery with a return to the dividend lists—the gross payment is 0.65p—the group is confident that the housebuilding recession is over. Meanwhile it has cut debt from around £8m to nearer £6.5m.

Further land write-downs in one subsidiary resulted in an £87,000 loss from as[…] but the group's own […] ment and construction chipped in a £1.4m Investment income ar[…] to £413,000. The slimme[…] photographic interests £71,000 against £157,0[…] year.

Whittingham expects things on all fronts […] current year; and the […] which added 4p to aro[…] ahead of the results another couple of pence day.

J. H. Vavasseur, whic[…] its 20 per cent holding group down to 12½p a s[…] value when Whittingh[…] into heavy going has showed no signs of sell[…]

After tax of £252,000 the previous year's credit, and the absence further below-the-line p[…] after the previous debit, attributable amounted to £294,000. T[…] attributable loss amou[…] £978,000.

Only share swings give clue to Ultra suitor

Ultra Electronics Holdings said last night that it had received a possible bid approach after its shares had performed erratically on the Stock Exchange all day.

They opened at 75p and at one stage reached 105p before falling to close at 84p. Over the last year the shares had traded between a high of 77p and a low of 37p.

The Ultra announcement said the company "has received an approach which may lead to an offer being made for the whole of the issued share capital of the company".

However, a spokesman said that no verbal or written communication had been made but the company had made its announcement on the basis of the erratic movement of the share price. Ultra has no idea of who is behind the trading shares.

After losses in the years from 1969 to 1[…] group has been recove[…] the year to March 21 […] tax profits rose to £903,3[…] £554,903, and in the fi[…] of the current year profits were £524,064

Ultra has a small issu[…] capital of four million and at yesterday's closi[…] was capitalised at […] According to the last report there were no […] accounting for more […] per cent of the equity

Among activities are […] struction of "Sonob[…] anti-submarine detector[…] are supplied to the […] of Defence—and electro[…] trols for aircraft and […] bines.

Briefly

ECGD-USSR LOAN
Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a £40.5m loan which Williams & Glyn's Bank arranged with Bank for Foreign Trade of USSR. Loan will help to finance contract to Constructors John Brown for high-density polyenthylene plant at Kazan. Finance for loan was made available by W. & G. and National Westminster.

RIVER PLATE & GENERAL
Gross 1976 revenue of River Plate and General Investment Trust up from £699,000 to £821,000. Net revenue (after tax) rose from £391,000 to £425,000. Gross payment moves from 6.84p to 7.7p.

WITAN INVESTMENT
Earnings (after tax) of Witan Investment rose from £920,000 to £1.23m in nine months to January 31. Earnings a share up from 1.08p to 1.45p.

BRITISH-BORNEO
Consolidated Gold Fields' offer for British-Borneo Petroleum Syndicate accepted for 366,412 shares, which with the 1.14m shares already held, represents 33.66 per cent of BBPS.

TEMPLE BAR INV
Gross revenue for 1976 up from £647,000 to £728,000. Earnings (after tax) rose from £353,000 to £404,000. Second interim dividend of 1.54p and will recommend final of 5.77p, gross, against 5.69p, making 10.39p (7.69p).

RIVER & MERCANTILE
Gross revenue of River and Mercantile Trust for 1976 up from £1.6m to £1.79m. Gross payment goes up from 9.61p to 10.78p.

HT INVESTMENTS
Pre-tax revenue for 1976 up from £132,000 to £157,000. Gross payment rises from 4.61p to 5.77p.

GRIMSHAWE HOLDINGS
Sales for six months to October 31, £1.84m, against previous year's £4.26m. Net profit, £7,000, against a loss of £17,000 after interest of £89,000 (£123,000). Board reports that a comparison is "rather meaningless" thanks to various closures.

H. J. BALDWIN
Turnover for half-year to October 31 up from £729,000 to £764,000. Pre-tax profits up from £53,000 to £69,000.

MK dispenses a cool £2m: more on way

Last summer's heat and cooling drinks did more for MK Refrigeration than even optimists expected.

Months ago this maker of beer dispensing and cooling plant besides commercial refrigerators and air conditioning seemed poised to hoist pre-tax profits from £1.36m to at least £1.8m in the year to October 30.

In fact the tally was a cool £2m. At half-time profits had risen from £436,000 to £750,000. Sales rose by nearly 28 per cent to £12.46m but profits grew faster by nearly 43 per cent.

All this reflected more than last year's summer. MK has finished a cost cutting programme. One aspect was the closing of a Gaskell & Chambers factory and raising output at the other.

Demand is at a new record, and a new expansion programme is under way. Moreover, it is thought that MK already has enough work on *hand for this year to equal last* year's record profit.

The scope, then, to do much better is huge. A final dividend of 1.36p net takes the total from 2.51p net to 2.72p, or 4.19p gross. The board would have paid out a lot more but for dividend curbs.

Brierley wants more Corn Ex.

The Corn Exchange has been told by Mr R. A. Brierley, chairman of Brierley Investments, a company incorporated in New Zealand, that he has started talks to buy 341,200 (12.3 per cent) Corn Exchange shares. This is the stake now held by Brandts Second Nominees.

If this deal goes through, Brierley and its associated companies would hold just under 20 per cent of the Corn Exchange equity.

Mr Brierley "has not indicated at this stage whether or not he plans a bid for the company" but the shares rose 6p to 134p on the news. A further announcement will be made if the board receives further relevant information.

Newbold & Burton up to the occasion

The directors of Newbold and Burton Holdings expected good 1976 results. And they got them. Pre-tax profits were a record. They soared from £207,000 to £303,000 on sales up from £5.4m to £6.51m.

Raising the gross payment from 3.5p to 3.85p, the board reports that order books at the start of 1977 were "satisfactory" and there are grounds *for reasoned optimism.* Newbold makes ladies' footwear.

Sunley recovers but no bid

The shares in Bernard Sunley Investment Trust fell yesterday not because the group is doing badly, but because there was no sign of Eagle Star renewing its *1973 bid* or making a new one (there was a Monopolies Commission reference at the time), or indeed comment on Mr David Jessel succeeding Mr Bill Shapland as deputy chairman.

The trading news, however, is good. The corner has at last been turned after two years in the red. In the half-year to September 30 the group made pre-tax profits of £585,000 *against losses of £1.26m for the* first half of the year before, and a loss of £489,000 for the whole of that year.

Sir Brian Mountain, chairman, says that the half-year to March 31 next should show pre-tax profits "not less" than the first half's. Rents receivable in the current year will probably reach £5.4m, against £4.8m, but the interim payment is 2.54p gross again.

Net property income went up from £1.52m to £1.68m. Trading profits (before interest) were £978,000, compared with losses last time of £156,000.

Fatter margins at Garford-Lilley

A small fall in turnover from £1.66m to £1.59m in the half-year to September 30 did not stop the pre-tax profits of Garford-Lilley Industries from rising from £116,000 to £135,000. Moreover, the board hopes that the full year's profits will continue the progress of recent years. But the gross interim dividend is 0.27p again. Garford-Lilley is in engineering, plastic extrusion and moulding besides woodworking. Pre-tax profits in 1975-76 were a record £278,000.

Racal-ADD extension

Agreement to extend their rival offers for Milgo Electronic Corporation have been made by Racal Electronics of Britain and the American group Applied Digital Data Systems. The offers are extended to next Tuesday to allow for further talks on the eventual ownership and control of Milgo and other outstanding matters.

Greenall goes on with 30p bid for Stanneylands

Undaunted by Associated Leisures's refusal to cooperate, brewer Greenall Whitley, the Vladivar vodka group, is going *ahead with an offer of 30p cash* for Stanneylands, the Manchester-based hotels and restaurants group. Last week, when it first proposed to make an offer, Greenall said that it depended on Associated with 25 per cent of Stanneylands, withdrawing from the scene or accepting Greenall's offer.

Associated decided instead to proceed with its own agreed 25p cash bid.

Meanwhile, late last night a spokesman for Associated claims that another irrevocable acceptance of its offer, from a former Stanneylands director holding almost 4 per cent, gives his group just over 54 per cent of Stanneylands equity.

New Causton block seen as just an investment

*A 26 per cent stake in loss-*making printing group, Sir Joseph Causton & Sons, has been sold to Mr Christopher Bland, former managing direc*tor of Beyer Peacock.*

Causton's shares added ½p to 8p yesterday on news of the sale by Smith St Aubyn, the discount broker, whose stake in Causton has been reduced to 30 per cent as a *result* of the transaction.

The value of the deal has not been specified but Causton, responsible for printing the Stock Exchange daily official list, has a market capitaliza*tion of just under £700,000.*

Mr Bland, who left Beyer after it was taken over by Saudi Arabian interests last year, is deputy chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

He said yesterday that he had no plans to bu[…] further shares in Caus[…] was "perfectly happy […] straightforward inv[…] position". He added: "[…] it is an interesting com[…]

Causton, whose bor[…] stood at over £3m last ber, made losses of […] in 1976 and has pred[…] further "small loss" current year. The St[…] change Council is review[…] presentation of its da[…] which represents a ma[…] ning contract for the Couchmans subsidiary.

Smith St Aubyn came[…] original 57 per cent s[…] Causton when it went rescue of secondary ban[…] castle Securities, in 1[…] spokesman for Smith's s[…] night there were no im[…] plans for the remaining cent stake.

Eurocan time limit on Furness sta[…]

By Desmond Quigley

Eurocanadian Shipholdings is to reduce its holding in Furness Withy, the British shipping group, to not more than 10 per cent in the next three years. Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, announced this yesterday.

Eurocanadian has undertaken neither to increase its holdings in Furness Withy and FW's subsidiary Manchester Liners, nor to exercise more than 10 per cent of the voting rights in FW. Last year Eurocanadian's holding in FW was just over [illegible] per cent.

Mr Hattersley's acceptance of Eurocanadian's undertaking is a compromise with one of the recommendations of a report by the Monopolies Commission, published last October, that the stake should be reduced within two years.

Acting on the recommendations of the Commission Mr Hattersley ruled that a merger between the Bermuda-based Eurocanadian and FW would be against the public interest.

Yesterday Mr Geoffrey Murrant, deputy chairman of FW, said: "It is another year of uncertainty."

Mr Murrant said the group had not been told how Eurocanadian intended to reduce its holding.

Eurocanadian was fou[…] 1968 by two Canadia[…] Frank Narby and Mr […] Webster. In Septembe[…] capital employed was £[…] which 75 per cent rel[…] the investments in FW a[…] chester Liners.

The Monopolies rep[…] highly critical of one a[…] the building up of […] canadian's stake.

It found that the FW[…] had been misled as to t[…] holding of Eurocanadian, because Hambros had to sell a crucial 8.2 p[…] of the equity to Euroc[…] but only conditionally.

Allied Breweries make handsome start

Having turned in pre-tax profits up from £60.2m to £63m for the year to September 5, Allied Breweries now reports a good start to 1976-77. Mr Keith Showering, chairman, told the annual meeting that the group is budgeting for a "worthwhile" increase for the full year.

The wine and spirit companies, both in the United Kingdom and overseas, had a record Christmas. The beer division has also got off to a best-ever start. Further cheer comes from whisky group Teachers, bought last year, with results ahead of forecasts.

The good opening beer side contrasts fav[…] with the "unfortunate" […] ning to the same period 76. The current year's will take in a full […] Teachers.

The group is committ[…] substantial capital expe[…] programme of £164m.

BAT Industries' philosophy and Bullock report

While shareholders of BAT Industries will be given an indication of prospects for the coming year at the annual meeting in March, Mr Peter Macadam, the new chairman, has introduced a statement of the group's business philosophy into the group accounts.

In its submission to the Bullock Committee, the board saw the main need to be participation in day-to-day issues affecting employees' own work. Legislation should be supportive and not prescriptive, and representations should not be limited to trade union members. Also, companies with big overseas interests should be excluded from legislation requiring compulsory United Kingdom employee representation on the board.

Lon Shop sells shares in Beaumont Props

On Feb 16, London Shop Property Trust sold 1.4m ordinary shares (7.93 per cent) in Beaumont Properties, worth £910,000 at yesterday's close of 65p, up 1p. London Shop is keeping the other 1m ordinary

Business appointments

Chairman of Eastern Gas

Mr Ralph Stead is to be the new chairman of Eastern Gas from April 1. He succeeds Mr John Gadd, who becomes chairman of North Thames Gas.

Mr R. W. Fordham will become chairman and managing director of the rod division of Delta Metal on April 1. This follows the recent appointment of the present chairman, Mr T. R. M. Kinsey, as joint managing director of the Delta Metal group. Mr Ian Watson is to be chairman of Delta's rod companies at West Bromwich, Wolverhampton, Greenwich, Adderley Street and Ipswich. He will remain divisional technical director but give up his chairmanship of Delta Metal Castings. Mr Trevor Allen will become chairman of Delta Metal Castings in addition to being chairman of Delta Tubes.

Mr T. S. Davies has been made deputy chairman of **Rael-Brook.**

Mr Roger Parsons joins **Grindlay Brandts** on March 15 as a director responsible for the shipping finance department.

Mr David Finlay-Maxwell has been made chairman of the **Economic Development Committee for the Wool Textile Industry** in succession to Mr Tom Fraser.

Mr A. V. Coulson is to become treasurer of the **Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society** when Mr C. J. Humphreys retires on March 27.

Sir William Mather (chairman) and Mr H. C. Smith (managing director) of Mather & Platt have been elected to the board of **Wormald International.**

Mr Michael Jones has been made a director of **Cooper Gay (Holdings).**

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Straits tin price goes to an all-time high

In line with London Metal Exchange prices and on support from the United States and Japan, the Straits tin price yesterday went to an all-time high of SM1,551, a rise of SM11 on Wednesday and SM226 above the International Tin Agreement ceiling price. Market sources said that in anticipation of a shortage of the metal for some time, prices could rise even higher.

However, the London market was restrained yesterday on talk of renewed efforts in the United States to get an early release of metal from the General Service Administration's stockpile of 200,000 tons, because of prevailing high prices.

At the official morning close, standard cash had risen £7.50 on Wednesday's close to £6,087.50 per tonne and three months was a modest £2.50 up to £6,222.50. At the afternoon close prices had fallen back to £6,080 for cash and £6,218.50 for three months.

In copper, fresh outside demand remained quiet and gains mainly reflected strength in lead and zinc. Cash wire bars put on £2 and three months went £2.25 ahead.

The bullish trend continued in lead and cash put on £16.75 while three months advanced £11. Zinc was also firm with gains of £7.75 for cash and £7.50 for three months. Dealers reported fresh buying based on a belief that the metal had been neglected recently and that it was undervalued in relation to lead.

COPPER.—Afternoon.—Cash wire bars, £834-35 a metric ton; three months, £864-65. Sales, 6,450 tons (about half carries). Cash cathodes, £825-26; three months, £854-55. Sales, 550 tons (about half carries). Morning.—Cash wire bars £835.50-36.00; three months, £865-65.50. Settlement, £836. Sales, 7,200 tons. Cash cathodes, £827-28; three months, £856-56.50. Settlement, £828. Sales, 600 tons (about half carries).

SILVER was easier.—Bullion market (fixing levels).—Spot, 265.25p a troy ounce (United States cents equivalent, 453.1); three months, 273.90p (457.8c); six months, 283.20p (464.8c); one year, 300.90p (479.7c). London Metal Exchange.—Afternoon.—Cash, 265.5-65.9p; three months, 274.5-74.6p; seven months, 286-87p. Sales, 74 lots of 10,000 troy ounces each.

Commodities

Meat Commission: Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 17.—GB: Cattle, 56.38p per kglw (−1.64). UK: Sheep, 139.1p per kg.est.dcw (+3.8). GB: Pigs, 47.6p per kglw (−1.8). England and Wales: Cattle numbers up 5.9 per cent, average price 56.39p (−1.46). Sheep numbers down 3.2 per cent, average price 140.2p (+3.8). Pig numbers down 13.6 per cent, average price 47.6p (−1.8). Scotland: Cattle numbers up 9.6 per cent, average price 56.34p (−2.06). Sheep numbers up 8.6 per cent, average price 137.3p (+4.0). Pigs, nil.

Recent Issues

	Closing Price
Agric Mort 12% 1978 (£100)	£99¾+¼
Do 13¼% 1979 (£100)	£100
Do 13½% 1980 (£100)	£100⅛
Do 13½% 1978 (£100)	£100⅛
Do 14¼% 1978 (£100)	£101½
Do 14½% 1980 (£100)	£102⅛
Dunford Elliott 10% Cnv Pf (100)	190
FFI 14% 1983 (£99½a)	£11½+¼
Harrisons Malaysian Est 10p Ord	48½
Mid Kent Wtr 9% Rd Pf (‡a)	£14¼

RIGHTS ISSUES	Latest date of renun.	
ANZ Grp (A$2.75)	..	34 prem+2

Issue price in parentheses. * Ex dividend. † Issued by tender. ‡ Nil paid. a £10 paid.

Foreign Exchange

Sterling had an uneventful day and finished at $1.7055, down 0.15 cents on the day. Its effective devaluation was 43.4 per cent, up 0.1 per cent.

There was no undue pressure either way and the pound reacted downward only momentarily to the British clearing banks' base rate cut to 11½ from 12½ per cent from tomorrow, while the drop in British money supply in the January banking month had no impact.

Early firmness of sterling in New York was reflected in an upward move here to 1.7063 but some dealers thought the Bank of England may have sold at this level.

The French franc finished at 4.9780/9800 against the dollar from 4.9705/20 overnight. Weakness reflected uncertainty about France's political future in the context of next month's municipal elections. A large commercial selling order from Switzerland in forwards proved unsettling at one stage.

The Yen closed here at 282.80/95 against the dollar.

Gold rose $0.50 to close at $136.625.

Spot Position of Sterling

	Market rates (day's range) February 17	Market rates (close) February 17
New York	$1.7020-7063	$1.7050-7060
Montreal	$1.7470-7500	$1.7475-7485
Amsterdam	4.26-29fl	4.27-28fl
Brussels	62.60-63.00f	62.80-00f
Copenhagen	10.07-10½k	10.07½-08½k
Frankfurt	4.08-10½m	4.08½-09½m
Lisbon	55.40-75e	55.55-70e
Madrid	117.65-118.06p	117.85-118.00p
Milan	1503-06lr	1504-05lr
Oslo	8.99½-9.01½k	9.00-01k
Paris	8.47-51f	8.49-50f
Stockholm	7.21½-24k	7.22½-23½k
Tokyo	480-90y	482½-84½y
Vienna	29.00-30sch	29.05-15sch
Zurich	4.27½-30½f	4.28½-29½f

Effective depreciation since December 21, 1971 was 43.4%, up 0.1%.

Forward Levels

	1 month	3 months
New York	1.35-1.25c prem	3.65-3.55c prem
Montreal	1.00-.90c prem	2.60-2.50c prem
Amsterdam	3-2c prem	8¼-7¼c prem
Brussels	35-20c prem	100-85c prem
Copenhagen	1ore prem-1ore disc	1-3ore disc
Frankfurt	3½-2½pf prem	9½-8½pf prem
Lisbon	20c prem-05c disc	70-30c prem
Madrid	120-200c disc	250-350c disc
Milan	10-20lr disc	36-56lr disc
Oslo	6-4ore prem	11-9ore prem
Paris	2½-1½c prem	6-5c prem
Stockholm	2ore prem-par	3½-1½ore prem
Vienna	22-12gro prem	60-40gro prem
Zurich	4½-3½c prem	12½-11½c prem

Canadian dollar rate (against US dollar), $0.9754-57.

Eurodollar deposits (%) calls, 4½-4¾; seven days, 4½-4¾; one month, 4½-4¾; three months, 5-5¼; six months, 5½-5¾.

Gold

Gold fixed: am, $136.45 (an ounce); pm, $136.40.

Krugerrand (per coin): non-resident, $140½-142½ (£82½-83½); resident, $140½-142½ (£82½-83½).

Sovereigns (new): non-resident, $46-48 (£27-28); resident, $47-49 (£27½-28½).

Discount market

The Bank of England relieved a shortage of credit in the discount market yesterday by purchasing a small amount of Treasury bills and a small quantity of local authority bills directly from the houses. The total operation in bills came within the moderate designation.

In the event, money proved tighter than it had earlier seemed it might be. At the outset, there had been a view that there could conceivably be a slight surplus on the day. This prompted rates into a swift decline to around 11¼ per cent from initial 11½-⅝ per cent. However, the flow of credit soon showed signs of tightening up, and rates regained their opening levels. At the finish, with money still well bid, books were mainly balanced within a band of 11 per cent to 11½ per cent.

A feature of the day was the continuing decline in period rates. Rates on virtually all instruments traded in the discount market showed a decline as the cheaper money trend was pointed up by cuts in bank base rates. Notwithstanding the "fixed" MLR of 12 per cent that has now been with us for two weeks, Treasury bills were still trading the rate down, with "hots" changing hands just below 11 per cent on a quote of 11 1/32-10 15/16 per cent. If this trend were repeated at a tender where MLR were not suspended, the result would be 11½ per cent MLR.

Money Market Rates

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 12%
(Last changed 3/2/77)
Clearing Banks Base Rate 11½%
Discount Mkt Loans%
Overnight: 11-11½
Week Fixed: 11½-11¾

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Wall Street

New York, Feb 21.—Prices on the New York Stock Exchange closed broadly lower, ending a three day gains.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 4.57 points to 943.73. Declining issues exceeded advancing issues by about 930 to 470.

Volume totalled 19,040,000 shares, down from 23,430,000 shares yesterday.

Hospital administration stocks were sharply lower with Hospital Corporation of America down 1⅝ to 24⅞, National Medical Enterprises 13⅜ off 1½, Hospital Affiliates 14¾ down ½, American Medicorp 8⅞ off ⅝ and American Medical International 12¾ down 1½.

Cocoa dips 4 cent limit

New York, Feb 17.—COCOA futures declined the daily maximum four-cent limit while the unrestricted spot March plunged 9.10 cents to finish at 164.90 cents. An estimated 440 sell orders, mostly for May, July and September, were left outstanding. March, 164.90c; May, 167.50c; July, 162.20c; Sept, 158.15c; Dec, 145.60c; March, 139.85c nominal; May, 135.20c; July, 131.10c. Spots: Ghana 184½c; Bahia 184½c.

COFFEE.—Futures in "C" contract remain locked at the 3-cent limit up to the close.—March, 246.50-46.40c; May, 249.00c bid; July, 249.67c; Sept.

Bank Base Rates

...s Bank ..	11½%
...ted Credits	12½%
...ondon Secs	11½%
...e & Co ..	*12½%
... Bank	11½%
...l Bank ..	11½%
...estminster	11½%
...ster Acc's	11½%
... Trust ..	14%
...s & Glyn's	11½%

...deposits on sums of ... and under 9%. ...£25,000, 9½%, over ..., 10%.

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

DM = Deutschmark issue.
Source: Kidder, Peabody Securities, London.

NIGHTINGALE & CO. LIMITED

...readneedle Street, London EC2R 8HP. Tel: 01-638 8651

Company	Last Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div (p)	Yld %	P/E
Airsprung Ord	35	—	4.2	12.1	6.9
Airsprung 18½% CULS	117	+1	18.5	15.8	—
Armitage & Rhodes	30	—	3.0	10.0	—
Deborah Ord	100	—	8.2	8.3	5.0
Deborah 17½% CULS	109	—	17.5	16.1	—
Henry Sykes	50	—	2.2	4.4	5.8
James Burrough	80	+1	6.0	7.5	12.7
Robert Jenkins	225	—	25.0	11.1	5.0
Twinlock Ord	15	—	—	—	—
Twinlock 12% ULS	58	—	12.0	20.7	—
Unilock Holdings	54	—	6.1	11.3	6.8
Walter Alexander	69	—	5.8	8.4	7.8

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Authorized Unit Trusts

Abbey Unit Trust Managers.
72-80 Gatehouse Rd, Aylesbury, Bucks. 0296-5941

G and A Unit Trust Managers Ltd.
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Essex. 0277 227300

High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
28.8	19.5	G & A	25.1	26.8	8.78

G.T. Unit Managers Ltd.
16 Finsbury Circus, EC2M 7DD 01-628 8131

High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
64.4	51.2	GT Cap	59.6	63.4	3.00
73.7	59.3	Do Accum	69.9	74.3	3.00
112.4	91.3	Do Income	106.3	113.0	8.00

Offshore and International Funds

Canadian Prices

Stock Exchange Prices

Electricals prominent

Account Days: Dealings Began, Feb 14. Dealings End, Feb 25. § Contango Day, Feb 28. Settlement Day, March 8

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

BRITISH FUNDS

1976/77 High	Low	Stock			Price	Ch'ge	Int. only Yield	Gross Red. Yield
103⅞	97	Treas	11½%	1977	100½	• ..	11.444	10.636
98¼	91½	Treas	3%	1977	95	+¼	3.158	10.210
96	92¼	Trans	4%	1972-77	95¾	+⅛	4.178	9.416
99	93½	Treas	9%	1978	98	•+⅛	9.154	10.742
101½	93¼	Treas	10½%	1978	99	+⅛	10.572	11.062
95¼	89¼	Exch	5%	1976-78	95	•	5.266	8.412
91½	82¼	Treas	3%	1979	90¾	•+¼	3.316	7.165
103	92	Treas	11½%	1979	99	+⅛	11.579	11.897
91½	82¼	Elec	4¼%	1974-79	91	• ..	4.670	8.166
100	88	Treas	10½%	1979	96⅞	+⅛	10.839	11.673
90½	82¼	Elec	3½%	1976-79	89¾	+⅛	3.916	7.856
99	94½	Treas Cnv 9%		1980	96	•+⅛	9.360	10.556
96½	84½	Treas	9½%	1980	94	+⅛	10.067	11.719
90½	79¼	Fund	5¼%	1978-80	89¾	+⅛	5.874	9.031
89¼	78¼	Treas	3½%	1977-80	88¼	+⅛	3.966	7.577
103	96	Exch	13%	1980	102¼	+⅛	12.714	12.219
103	88	Treas	11½%	1981	99⅜	..	11.601	11.779
98	76¾	Treas	3½%	1979-81	84½	..	4.148	8.175
95⅝	82½	Treas	9¾%	1981	94¼	.	10.359	11.584
103¼	96¼	Exch	12¾%	1981	101¼	+⅛	12.531	12.244
94	79¾	Treas	8½%	1980-82	92¼	+⅛	9.164	10.422
80½	69¼	Treas	3%	1982	80¼	+⅛	3.732	7.831
111	98	Treas	14%	1982	106	• ..	13.099	12.148
107¼	88	Treas.	12%	1983	99½	• ..	11.965	11.939
87⅞	69¾	Fund	5½%	1982-84	80½	..	6.680	9.532
87⅞	74½	Treas	8¼%	1984-86	86	..	9.997	11.114
75	60¼	Fund	6½%	1985-87	74	..	9.027	11.171
78	65¼	Treas	7¾%	1985-88	76½	..	10.204	11.704
55½	44¾	Trans	3%	1978-88	54½	..	5.547	9.789
60¼	48	Treas	5%	1986-89	59½	..	8.632	11.380
75¼	61¾	Treas	8¼%	1987-90	74	..	11.385	12.557
103	36½	Treas	13%	1990	95	..	13.640	13.782
60½	47½	Fund	5¾%	1987-91	56¾	..	10.055	12.171
100½	83	Treas	12¾%	1992	92¼	+⅛	13.903	14.091
98½	81	Treas	12½%	1993	90¾	+⅛	13.995	14.197
97¾	96	Treas	13¾%	1993	97¼	+⅛	14.316	14.374
59	45½	Fund	6%	1993	54¼	•+⅛	10.969	12.560

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A—B

1976/77 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
180	119	AAH	173	+6	16.9	9.8	6.7
74	46	AB Electronic	66	..	7.0	10.5	6.8
38	26	AC Cars	26	..	1.8	5.6	3.4
40	22½	ACB Research	35	..	3.0	8.6	3.6
308	197	APV Hldgs	300	..	15.7	5.2	7.9
70	39	AVP Ind	64	• +1½	4.0	6.3	8.6
66	26	Aaronson Bros	60	-1	2.7	4.5	6.6
19	10	Abrasives Int	14	..	2.2b	15.4	..
69	54	Acrow	66	• ..	3.4	5.2	10.4
66	39	Do A	60	• ..	3.4	5.7	9.4
37	18	Adams Food	23	..	1.8	7.7	8.6
14	5½	Adda Int	12	..	..e	..	1.4
172	119	Adwest Group	168	..	10.7	6.4	6.4
44	16	Aeron'l & Gen	42	..	3.1	7.5	17.1
63	38	Airfix Ind	45	+1	4.4b	9.8	5.8
100	60	Albright & W	91	..	6.4	7.0	5.9
70½	62	Alcan 10½%	£74	..	1050	14.2	..
77	59	Do 9% Cnv	£73½	..	900	12.2	..
235	167	Alginate Ind	230	..	19.2n	8.4	11.3
79	41	Allen E. Balfour	50	+1	6.7	13.3	4.6
40	26	Allen W. G.	32	.	4.3	13.4	3.7
155	33	Allied Colloids	143	+5	7.0n	4.9	9.6
50	23	Allied Insulators	47	+1	5.4b	11.4	10.0
24	12	Allied Plant	14	..	1.1	7.9	3.2
80	18½	Allied Polymer	29	..	6.8b	23.5	..
140	50	Allied Retailers	80	+6	7.7	9.7	4.2
26½	14½	Alpine Hldgs	22½	..	3.0	13.3	6.8
252	190	Amal Metal	246	-5	19.8	8.1	7.6
60	44	Amal Power	64	-1	5.3	8.2	8.2
24½	17½	Amber Day	21	..	2.8	13.1	4.6
9	7	Amber Ind Hldgs	8	..	0.7	8.5	2.8
52	37	Anchor Chem	47	+1	5.7	12.1	..
46	31½	Anderson Strath	40½	..	3.9	9.8	6.9
42	31	Andre Silentbloc	37	..	2.6	7.0	6.9

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

FOREIGN STOCKS

DOLLAR STOCKS

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

C—E

F—H

I—L

M—N

O—S

T—Z

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

SHIPPING

MINES

OIL

PROPERTY

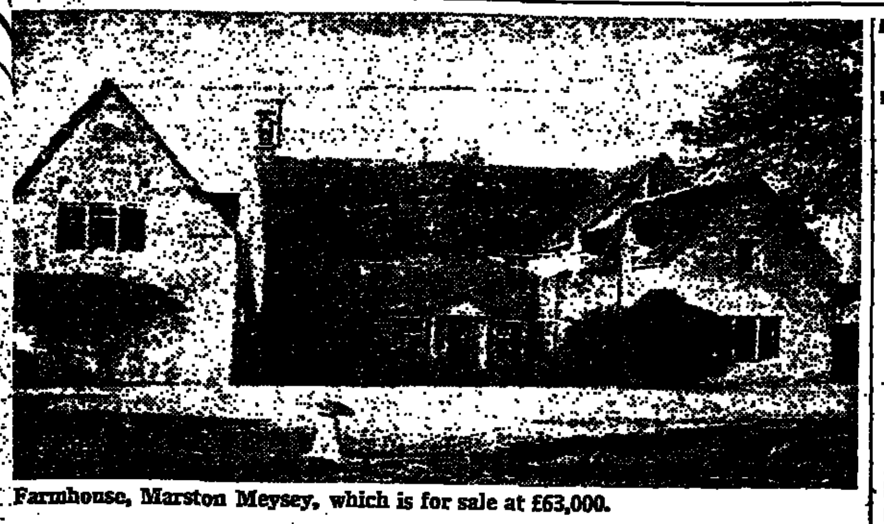
RUBBER

TEA

MISCELLANEOUS

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES

Residential property



Farmhouse, Marston Meysey, which is for sale at £63,000.

Old barns and shady courtyards

... and outbuildings ... to form a courtyard ... -ally picturesque and privacy above the ... It is a layout often ... with older farm- ... and is particularly ... when all the buildings ... -bout the same period. ... -ally better for them ... arranged around three ... a square, or the house ... overshaded.

... example is provided ... Farmhouse, at Mar- ... -sey, on the borders ... -hire and Gloucester- ... -ought to date from the ... century, the main ... L-shaped, with a fine ... forming the third ... the gravelled court- ... buildings are of ... stone, and the house, ... about 12 years ago, ... reception rooms, six ..., a playroom and good ... The barn provides ... a further large play- ... various storage ... Gardens and grounds ... seven and a ... and include a two- ... cottage. The price is ... through Savills of ...

... barn adds to the ... of Turks Mill, at ... Hampshire, a mill ... barn on the banks ... between Farnham ... The buildings prob- ... from the seventeenth ... The main accommoda- ... -des three reception ... four bedrooms. The ... barn, originally the ... was later converted ... staff wing with three ... and a sitting room. ... stripped of interior ... treatment of the ... would be suitable ... version to a separate ... extra accommodation ... main house. The ... of about three acres ... both sides of the river ... joined by a footbridge. ... yards of trout fish- ... with the property, ... for sale at £55,000, ... Heller Eggar, of Farn- ...

... -ally interesting is ... Manor, one of the ... remaining houses in ..., West Sussex. It ... from the sixteenth ... century, perhaps ... of an earlier build-ing incorporated and seems to have been a good deal larger originally than it is today. Built mainly of stone with a tiled roof and with some mullioned windows, it has a galleried reception hall, a drawing room or great hall, a dining room, breakfast room and, upstairs, a main bedroom suite, three other bedrooms and sitting room. On the second floor there is a study or bedroom. The large loft could be converted into three bedrooms. Much of the garden, of about an acre and a half, is enclosed by stone walls. Offers of about £70,000 are being asked through King and Chasemore, of Pulborough.

On a much smaller scale and particularly suitable for a retired couple is Wells Cottage, in Fox Yard, off West Street, Farnham, Surrey. The cottage, which is thought to date from about 1720, is double-fronted and is in the middle of a terrace of three such dwellings. There is a dining hall, a sitting room with a beamed ceiling, and three single bedrooms. There is a small front garden and a garage. The price is £22,500; the agents are Gascoigne-Pees, of Farnham.

Wisteria Cottage at Minstead, Hampshire, was originally a wheelwright's thatched cottage and is thought to be about 350 years old. It was restored a few years ago and has a large sitting room 20ft long, with good timbering and a stone fireplace with hood, a large combined kitchen and dining room and four bedrooms. The irregular site of about two thirds of an acre, has a double frontage. The property is for sale at £37,000, through Whiteheads, of Southampton.

Interesting possibilities for extra accommodation are provided by Moat Mill Farm at Mayfield, East Sussex, a good building of the sixteenth or seventeenth century constructed in the Sussex style of brick with the front completely tile-hung and the other walls partly so. Features include heavy timbering and exposed beams and two fine inglenook fireplaces. There are two main reception rooms and five bedrooms.

Detached from the main house is a two-roundel oast house which, subject to planning permission, could be converted into a separate dwelling or studio. Gardens and grounds extend to about 27 acres, mainly pasture and woodland, part of which is bordered by the Rother. Offers of about £50,000 are being asked through Rowland Gorringe and Co, of Uckfield.

Many periods are reflected in The Old Almshouse, at Castlemorton, near Malvern, Worcestershire. The oldest part is thought to be the remains of a medieval hall which was probably remodelled and extended in the sixteenth century. About 1800 it was converted into almshouses and they were turned back into a single private house in the early 1960s. The property has two main reception rooms, a study and four bedrooms. An unusually well landscaped garden extends to about three quarters of an acre. The property is for sale through Chamberlaine-Brothers and Edwards, of Cheltenham.

A number of early features are retained in The Old Rectory, a timber-framed Tudor house in the village of Great Hormead, near Buntingford, Hertfordshire. Of rendered brick with a tiled roof, it displays the original sixteenth century octagonal chimney stacks. Other interesting details are diamond-shaped leaded lights, original panelling, exposed beams and open brick fireplaces. Accommodation includes a reception hall, two main reception rooms, a breakfast room and three bedrooms, with a fourth bedroom or boxroom on the second floor. About an acre and a half of ground includes two paddocks. Offers of about £50,000 are being asked through Humbert, Flint, Rawlence and Squarey, of London.

Gerald Ely

London Flats

BELGRAVIA
... LEASEHOLD FLAT FOR SALE
... apartment across the ... of 2 adjoining ... 31ft. drawing room ... south-facing French windows ... dining room with 18th- ... panelling; master bed- ... facing South on to ... 2 other bedrooms ... bathrooms en suite. ... staff bed. and bath, ... ; 75-yr. lease.
RALPH PAY & RANSOM
... Mount St., W.1.
01-493 9831

... SEN, S.W.14. 5 bed. ... 902, completely modern- ...; plus new 2 bed. flat. £55,000. 01-977 2675

Country property

... KLADE—Cotswold Water ... Cirencester 5 miles, Swin- ... miles. Attractive old Farm- ... with many period features. 5 beds, k. & b., attics; ... buildings. Garden. Auction ... March. Ryelands & Co., ... (0385) 3101.

SUFFOLK BORDER. Spaci- ... former Rectory made ... able by American owners ... beautiful timbered grounds ... acres. 4 rec., cloakroom, ... offices, 8 bed., 3 bath., ... C.H. Impressive out- ... £46,000 including ... carpets, or reasonable ... (Ref: 7348). H. J. ... & Son, 51a Friars Street, ..., Suffolk. CO10 6AE. ... Sudbury 72833/4.

Country property

HINDHEAD SURREY
(1907 MAJOR PART OF LARGE HOUSE)
comprising master bedroom 21x13ft with 8x13ft en suite bathroom, 3 other double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, further bathroom with shower, L-shaped lounge 24ft long, fully fitted 16ft kitchen/diner with pine units and ceiling, utility room, seperate cloakroom and w.c.
Double garage, pretty garden.
£26,500
to include blinds, carpets negotiabe.
Tel. Hindhead 4374

NORTH BUCKS QUAINTON
Period Farmhouse with 0.9 Acre and 85 Acres in 3 Lots
2 Rec., 3 Beds., Bath Outbuildings, etc.
AUCTION 29th MARCH, 1977
Geo. Wigley & Sons
Chartered Surveyors
Winslow, Bucks
Tel.: (029 671) 2717/8

Country property

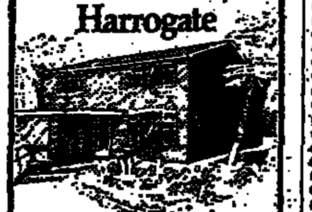
KENT
1728 PERIOD FARM HOUSE
1 mile coast, approx 1 acre garden. Rural surroundings but easy walk shops, schools & station.
4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large kitchen, 2 reception. Inglenook fireplace & beams. Well modernised. C.H. Part double glazing.
£31,000 o.n.o.
Deal 5722

LEE ON SOLENT
4 YEAR OLD DETACHED HOUSE
5 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (one en suite), large lounge, dining room, kitchen, study, utility room, large cloakroom, sun lounge.
Small secluded garden and double garage.
Close seafront and all amenities.
£37,500 o.n.o.
Lee on Solent (0705) 550130

PYRFORD, SURREY
Attractive detached house: Master bedroom with ensuite shower room/W.C. 3 further bedrooms, bathroom/W.C. Living room with doors onto patio, dining room, fully fitted kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom/W.C. Gas C.H. Beautiful well established garden ⅓ acre. £33,500.
Tel: Byfleet (Surrey) 45241

Properties under £25,000

Park Parade, Harrogate



Traditionally styled exteriors hide more inbuilt luxury and space than you'd believe possible. The Bedale (illus.) a four bedroomed luxury detached house with double garage and full gas central heating. Two only from £22,500. Call at the Show House just off The Stray and see from the inside, Mon-Fri 11.30-4.30pm, Sat-Sun 12 noon-4.30pm, or phone Harrogate 57372 for full details.
FAIRCLOUGH HOMES
For the discerning buyer
Fairclough Building Limited
Aberford Road, Garforth, Leeds LS25 2DZ

Whiteheads
OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO YACHTSMEN
Emsworth, in quiet character street close to harbour. Modern Georgian Style Town House. Hall, cloakroom, livingroom, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with w.c., integral garage, patio garden with space for dinghy.
£20,950
WHITEHEADS

TRANQUIL
MID DEVON VILLAGE

BLACKHEATH
... P. Williams 01-637 8531 (office). 01-318 4164 (eves.).

ISLE OF WIGHT NITON
Attractive Detached 3 bedroom bungalow. 24ft. lounge/diner. Fully equipped 10ft. kitchen. Bathroom with shower unit. Separate w.c. 18ft. sun lounge. Spacious 24ft. garage and greenhouse. Large patio and well stocked garden. Close to shops and buses. 1 mile from sea. Night store heaters. £15,250 Freehold
Tel.: Niton (0983) 730634

FRUIT FOR THE EATING FLOWERS FOR THE PICKING FLOURISHING IN WIMBLEDON
Spacious Victorian semi. 4 lge. beds., bathrm., sep. w.c., with hand basin. 29ft through lounge with French windows to gdn. Double aspect dining room. Kitchen with picture window. Beautiful rural gdn., over 100ft. Off-street parking. Gas c.h.
£23,450 freehold o.n.o.
Tel: 540 5340

BRADFORD-ON-AVON
Unique position close river and country park. Stone built Semi with 3 bedrooms, bath, w.c. Gas C.H. Perfect condition.
Offers on £16,250
Tel: 6069 (Bradford-on-Avon)

MENDIP VILLAGE
Family house. 9 rooms on 2 floors, plus ground floor granny flat. car port plus standing space, small gardens. Full oil C.H., 11 radiators. £23,000 for quick sale. Details:
LEWIS,
53 Albert Road, Keynsham, Bristol.
Tel. Keynsham 2578

EAST COKER SOMERSET
A four bedroom house for conversion in wing of stone built listed grade 1 Manor house. Magnificent setting. This property will show a probable saving of £3,000-£5,000 when converted.
£9,250 freehold
Telephone West Coker 2357

SLOANE SQUARE (off) S.W.3.
Delightful 3 room, etc., penthouse type flat. Most accessible position. Quiet, bright, not overlooked. Tastefully modernized. Newly decorated. Lift. 99 years.
£24,000
Please phone 01-589 5304 or write P.O. Box 213, SW3 2SL.

WARBOYS NEAR HUNTINGDON
(Kings Cross 60 mins)
25 mins. Peterborough. 35 mins. Cambridge. Modern semi-detached house in friendly village. Kitchen/Diner, Lounge with woodblock floor. 3 Bedrooms. part Dbl. Glazing. C.H. Garage with space for freezer. Garden. Veg. Patch. Nr. school and shops.
£9,850
Tel. Ramsey (0487) 822257

SMALL RETIREMENT FLAT
with separate larger flat on two floors for the family's holidays. Situated in a noted showplace, about 1½ miles from S.E. Coast. £22,500 Freehold. Write Box 0202 J, The Times, or telephone Winchelsea (079 76) 342 Friday p.m.-Monday p.m.

Elgin Crescent W.11
(one minute Portobello Rd.)
Lovely garden flat with established flowering japonica. Fully carpeted, one single, one double bedroom, kitchen, tiled bathroom, sunny reception room with French doors to 25ft (approx.) private garden leading to beautiful communal garden. Ideal for couple with child and pets. Long lease.
Good Buy at £19,500.
Ring 01-221 5359

SOUTH COTSWOLDS (GLOUCESTERSHIRE)
18th century modernised stone cottage in hamlet overlooking secluded valley near Gatcombe Park, adjoining new Minchinhampton Golf Course. Idyllic setting. 2 reception, 3 bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom, cellar and old dairy. C.H. Landscaped front garden with kitchen garden to rear. Double car space. London 2 hours.
£21,500 o.n.o.
Tel. 045 383 3231.

SCOTLAND
Set in a peaceful Perthshire Glen. Picturesque stone-built Cottage in good repair, modernised 1971. 2 double bedrooms, living room, kitchen & bathroom. 2 outside sheds, garage and garden room. Garden and 2 small paddocks. Off peak heating. Telephone & TV aerial. RV £45.
£20,000 o.n.o.
For further particulars and arrangements to view contact Nightingale & Bell, Sec 5 Alva St., Edinburgh. 031 225 2641.

PANORAMIC PENNINE VIEWS
Modern, spacious detached house in country village, within easy reach of Sheffield, Leeds, Wakefield. Large lounge, dining room, breakfast/kitchen, cloakroom, w.c. 3 double bedrooms, fitted wardrobes. Bathroom, shower, gas c.h., garage. Large mature garden.
£15,500 o.n.o.
Tel: Barnsley (0226) 764 107

CENTRAL BRIGHTON
Triple-fronted, early Victorian detached house with character. Clifton/Powis conservation area. Lion couchant on roof. 4 s/c flats, 3 completely re-wired. New baths, fully furnished. Front gardens, rear patios. Requires outside decoration. Near station/lanes/shops/theatre. Income from 3 flats £5,500 p.a. Suitable home/investment or staff flats.
£24,000
Telephone 0273 23205 or 01-969 1897

CLAPHAM COMMON
Purpose-built Edwardian flat. Excellent condition. Fully modernised. 2 bedrooms, large lounge large fully fitted kitchen/diner, bathroom and w.c. C.H., own well-maintained garden. Very close to buses, tubes, shops and Common.
£13,750
Tel: 675 3253

LEE, S.E.12
(CONSERVATION AREA)
End terrace town house. 1 double, 2 single bedrooms, 1 large reception, fully fitted kitchen and attractive bathroom. Garden, garage. Gas C.H.
£18,000 freehold
carpets and curtains, neg.
Tel: 852 1397

SALTDEAN
1973 Semi-Detached Bungalow
2 double bedrooms, large lounge, fitted teak kitchen with washing machine. Yellow bathroom suite. Sep. w.c. Garage. Excellent decorative order. Large garden with patio.
ONLY £15,000 o.n.o.
All carpets, curtains included.
Tel. 805 5902

Maidstone
SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE BUILT '75
Quiet Area
2 double bedrms., 1 single bedrm., 1 spacious recept., fully fitted kitchen. Large garden.
£11,500
TEL: 0622 874100

Highcliffe-on-Sea
HAMPSHIRE
Attractive bungalow in excellent order. 3 dbl. bedrooms all with fitted wardrobes, bathroom/w.c., sep. w.c. or 2nd bathroom, kitchen, large lounge/dining room. C.H. Super carpets throughout included. Sunny garden. Garage. Lovely position close to seafront and shops.
£25,000
Highcliffe 5049

NEVERN SQUARE SW5
Spacious flat in good conversion. 2 beds., recept., 2 bath, kit. C.h., c.h.w. + complete contents. Owner going abroad. 98 yr. lease.
£21,750 o.n.o.
Ring 01-286 7820

WALES
A grand old 3 bedroomed farm house, outbuildings and 6 acres of pasture land. Beautiful spot all main services available for quick sale £15,000.
PARRY POWELL & CO.,
4 Broad St., New Radnor.
054 421 687
ANY TIME

CLAPHAM PARK SW12

DWELLINGS FOR EVERYONE
from £6,945
... WRAGBY ... Lincoln.
Hugh Bourn Developments (Wragby) Limited
Louth Road, Wragby, Wincoln
Tel. 540 & 350

ISLE OF SKYE
Outline planning permission for one house or two chalets (½ acre). Tourist and Business potential. Freehold. Price around £8,000. Mild climate.
Apply Fraser, Smith & Co., Ltd. Estate Agents, Inverness. Tel. 0463 30703/4.

PROPERTY WANTED

House/Flat near Cannes
Architect and family require immediately house or flat with a garden. Cannes or vicinity. Long lease.
Write Pagano, B.P. 119 83700 St. Raphael, France.

WANTED BY CASH BUYER
South-facing two-bedroomed flat with pleasant outlook. Chelsea / Knightsbridge area. Cranmer Court or similar block. No agents.
Tel.: 01-351 3276

Overseas Property

COSTA DEL SOL. Townhouses on the beach in cared-for urbanisation. Complete hotel facilities. Also looking for U.K. agents. Please call Thursday and Friday. 262 5022, Room 517, Mr Hammelsvang, or leave message.

GRAN CANARIA.—Properties, Apartments, Land for sale.—Write Twymark, 88 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4AB.

London & Suburban property

KING'S ROAD
Charming 1850 cottage among antique shops. 2 beds., 3rd bed./study, 2 recept., mod. kitchen, bathroom and w.c., c.h. Double glazing. Large celar. Garden. Spacious garage/workshop. £34,500
Tel: 01-736 5408

NEAR LUDLOW, SALOP, adjacent to village church, with fine views over the surrounding countryside, a superb 4/5-bedroom architect-designed house, set in landscaped garden: excellent and spacious reception areas, bath and shower rooms, and two garages. £31,000.—Nock Deighton & Son, 3 Bull Ring, Ludlow. Tel.: Ludlow 2564.

PUTNEY. LUXURY PENTHOUSE. 3 bed., 2 bath., lge. living room, picture windows, kitchen/breakfast, garage. Big patio, gas C.H., lift, cloths and dishwashers, waste unit. £37,500 inc. carpets. 01-789 1437.

PROPERTY TO LET

ENGLAND, WARWICKSHIRE
In the heart of England, Warwickshire a lovely, large country house; for Sale or To Let. 15 Minutes from the National Exhibition Centre and Birmingham Airport. 1 hour from London, by train. Ideal for House and Company Headquarters. Plenty of Car Space. Will let on a short term to the right company, please make direct contact with the owners:
A. W. GREEN & BROS. LTD.,
Astley Lane, Bedworth,
Warwickshire, England.
Telephone Coventry 312183

OXFORDSHIRE
Summer letting of spacious country farmhouse in Vale of White Horse. 3 bedrooms, 2 reception. Fully furnished, C.H. M4 Interchange 15 10 miles. £180 p.c.m. To let from 1st March for 6 months. Phone Paul Gregory:
LOVEDAY & LOVEDAY,
ON 0793 29121

Mortgages & Finance

BIGGER & BETTER Mortgages. Remortgages, Garfield Hillman & Co. Ltd. 161/163, Temple Chambers, Temple Ave., EC4X 0DU. Tel.: 01-353 2487 and 353 6101/5.

TRANSFER BOOKS

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM BONDS
Notice is hereby given that the BOND REGISTER will be CLOSED from 2nd March to 31st March, 1977, both dates inclusive, for the preparation of interest due 1st April, 1977.
W. S. PAGE,
City Treasurer,
City Treasurer's Department,
Council House,
Birmingham, B3 3AD.

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

THE SUDAN GEZIRA BOARD INVITES TENDERS FOR CONVENTIONAL AERIAL SPRAYING SEASON 1977-78.
The minimum guaranteed cotton and wheat areas for different units are as follows:—
(a) Cotton = 974,774 feddans
(b) Wheat = 580,096 feddans
Tenderers may quote for one or more units.
Detailed information and specifications can be obtained from Sudan Government Purchasing Office, Sudan Embassy, 3 Cleveland Row, St. James's, London, S.W.1 against £5.00. Telephone 01-839 8080, ext. 24.
Closing date 9th March, 1977, in Sudan.

DRAWING OF BONDS

MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL

ST. HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL. BILLS ... 1977 ... 1977 ... £6m. ... £2m.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Durham
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND THE TEACHING OF ENGINEERS
RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

University of Durham
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
Applications are invited for the post of
SENIOR DEMONSTRATOR

The University of Sheffield
CHAIR OF BIOCHEMISTRY
Applications are invited for a newly established second Chair of Biochemistry tenable from a date to be arranged. Salary in the range approved for professorial appointments with superannuation provision. Further particulars may be obtained from The Registrar and Secretary, The University, Sheffield S10 2TN, to whom applications (one copy only) should be sent by March 19, 1977. Quote Ref. R.520/A.

Appointments Vacant also on pages 18 and 24

THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND
is re-advertising for a

PRESS OFFICER

(previous applicants need not re-apply)

The Press Officer must have considerable journalistic experience for vital and interesting work in our London Headquarters. He or she will be directly responsible to the Head of Public Relations.

The successful applicant will be capable of initiating ideas for extending coverage of the Fund's activities. Age is not critical but the requirements suggest that applicants would probably be between 28 and 40.

The salary will be matched to experience and will be in line with similar appointments in the field of press relations.

Please write or telephone for further particulars and an application form to:

The Recruitment Officer
The Save the Children Fund
157 Clapham Road, SW9 0PT
Telephone: 01-528 1414 ext. 31

Save the Children

SCIENCE MUSEUM

WATER TRANSPORT COLLECTIONS

Assistant Keeper . . . to join the Department of Transport and be responsible for maintenance and development of the Water Transport Collections which embrace ships (including warships, sailing ships and small craft), marine engines and auxiliary machinery, docks and harbours, and diving. Later, the successful candidate will prepare a scheme for the reorganisation of the Marine Engineering Sections.

Candidates should normally have a degree with 1st or 2nd class honours in Engineering (or an equivalent or higher qualification) and a good knowledge of, or sound professional experience in, Marine Engineering and Ship Construction. Ability to write clearly on a technical subject and an interest in the history of ships essential. SALARY: As AK 1st Class £5,180-£7,885 or AK 2nd Class £3,170-£4,675. Level of appointment and starting salary according to age, qualifications and experience. Non-contributory pension scheme.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 10 March 1977) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref G(3)382.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

The University of Sheffield
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING SCIENCE
LECTURER
IN BUILDING SCIENCE
... Initial salary in range £3,333 to £4,811 on scale rising to £6,555 a year plus superannuation. Particulars from the Registrar and Secretary, the University, Sheffield, S10 2TN to whom applications (3 copies) should be sent by 21 March 1977. Quote Ref. R.527/A.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Cape Town
SENIOR LECTURER OR LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND SURVEYING
... the names and addresses of three referees. Preference for any branch or branches of surveying should be indicated.
Memoranda concerning the position and general conditions of service should be obtained from the Registrar, Room 1, University of Cape Town, Private Bag A, Rondebosch 7700, by whom applications must be received not later than 30th April, 1977.

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

MINISTRY OF TOWN PLANNING, HOUSING, TOURISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SOCIETE NATIONALE D'AMENAGEMENT DE LA BAIE D'AGADIR (SONABA)

PRE-SELECTION PROCEDURE WITH A VIEW TO AN INTERNATIONAL INVITATION TO TENDER

The General Manager of SONABA hereby notifies companies and groups of companies that SONABA is launching an INTERNATIONAL PRE-SELECTION procedure with a view to the execution of infrastructure works for an integral "tourist city" whose area will be approximately 250 hectares and which is to include approximately 7,000 hotel beds and 2,600 housing units. The project is to be financed jointly by the Moroccan Government and the World Bank. The pre-selection procedure is open to companies in World Bank member states and in Switzerland. Pre-selected companies only will be invited to tender for the execution of the works.

The project will include:

- Lot 1 EARTHWORKS—PARKING ROAD—ROAD STRUCTURES
- Lot 2 RAINWATER AND SEWAGE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS
- Lot 3 DRINKING WATER MAINS SYSTEM, INCLUDING WATERING FIRE HYDRANT SYSTEMS
- Lot 4 MEDIUM AND LOW VOLTAGE ELECTRICITY NETWORKS
- Lot 5 PUBLIC LIGHTING SYSTEMS
- Lot 6 TELECOMMUNICATIONS
- Lot 7 OPEN SPACE—PEDESTRIAN AREAS—PARKING AREAS—LANDSCAPING—GARDENS and other amenities.

Companies may apply to be invited to tender for one or more lots. The pre-selection documents and detailed information on the works may be obtained from: **SONABA, Boite Postale 348, AGADIR, MOROCCO, from 10 February 1977.**

The final date for receipt of the pre-selection applications from companies interested is **15 March 1977.**

£6,000 plus appointments

CENTRAL AFRICAN POWER CORPORATION

ASSISTANT ENGINEER

Research and Development

Equivalent to approximately £7,881 to £9,755 per annum

The Corporation, a statutory authority established jointly for Zambia and Rhodesia, owns and operates Kariba South hydro-electric power station and a transmission system centred on Kariba comprising 2 700m km of 330kV transmission line and 12 major substations, and has the above vacancy in the Electrotechnical Department, Salisbury.

The duties will include modifications for improving existing equipment and the design of new systems in the fields of power line carrier communications, power system protection, telemetering and test equipment. Considerable knowledge of electronic and electrical techniques is therefore required with particular emphasis on modern digital electronics.

The minimum qualifications required for the post are those which lead to corporate membership of the IEE (or of the Rhod IE) or an appropriate professional engineering qualification. Preference will be given to candidates who can produce evidence of previous similar work and have experience of both light and heavy current electrical engineering.

The Corporation offers the following non-contributory benefits: membership of Medical Aid Scheme, holiday grant, life and accident cover and Provident Fund providing a lump sum payment of 12½% of aggregate basic salary on leaving the Corporation, after 3 years' service rising to 25% after 13 years. Conditions also include 40 working days leave per annum, and travelling expenses and generous allowance for transportation of effects on joining the Corporation.

Applications, which should include full details of education, qualifications, experience, age and marital status, should be addressed to:

The Administrative Officer
CENTRAL AFRICAN POWER CORPORATION
PO BOX 233, LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

The British Government warns UK nationals who take up employment in Rhodesia that:
(a) the regime in Rhodesia is an illegal one in rebellion against the Crown.
(b) consular protection is not available in Rhodesia:
(c) the illegal regime has declared a state of emergency and all adult European men resident in Rhodesia are subject to indefinite periods of call-up for compulsory service in the armed forces.

Appointments Vacant also on pages 18 & 23

PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Rothamsted Experimental Station
HARPENDEN, HERTS AL5 2JQ

SCIENTIFIC OFFICER

to work as part of a team on the biology and ecology of brassica pests with particular reference to oil seed rape, and on the effect of pest infestations, and pollination by honey bees, on yields. The appointee would be expected to lead a small group within the larger team, and to contribute ideas to the established programme. The work involves laboratory and field studies and the recording and analysis of experimental data.

Qualifications: Good Honours Degree or equivalent in Entomology, Zoology or Biology with Entomology.

Appointment in grade of Scientific Officer £2,149-£3,527 p.a. A supplement of £313 p.a. is also payable. Non-contributory superannuation.

Apply in writing to the Secretary, giving names and addresses of two referees, and quoting Ref. 317, by 18th March, 1977. Further details on request.

Rothamsted Experimental Station
HARPENDEN, HERTS. AL5 2JQ

BIOLOGIST or CHEMIST

required in the Botany Department to assist with research on the effects of aerial pollution on crop plants.
Qualifications: Pass degree in Biology or Chemistry, HNC, or equivalent.
Appointment in grade of Scientific Officer (£2,149-£3,527). Starting salary according to qualifications and experience. A supplement of £313 p.a. is also payable. Non-contributory superannuation.
Apply in writing to the Secretary, giving names and addresses of two referees and quoting ref. 318 by 18th March, 1977. Further particulars on request.

ORATORY PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Goring Heath, Reading.

Applications are invited for the post of

HEADMASTER

Details may be obtained from the Clerk to the Governors,

ORATORY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION,
Woodcote, Reading.

WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL

(Headmasters' Conference ex-Direct Grant)

550 boys including 280 boarders

Applications are invited for the post (September 1977) of:

BURSAR

Applications (curriculum vitae and names of two referees) should be sent not later than March 5, 1977.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Headmaster at the School:
Apperley Bridge
Bradford
West Yorkshire BD10 0NR

OLD ESTABLISHED Tutorial College requires part-time Tutors in 'A' level Biology and 'O' level Mathematics and Physics. 373 1287.

RETAILING MANAGEMENT

Go-ahead publishing house with little knowledge of retailing wishes to meet young (or relatively young!) person with retailing or merchandising flair and general management potential. Object: a great future for both of us!

We have a range of books, magazines and large format paperbacks—basically on leisure topics—to form the nucleus of a new retailing operation.

The person we seek is perhaps languishing at present in a job where his or her talents are constrained by orthodoxy or where the possibilities of promotion are limited. We doubt if that person is currently earning less than £5,000 per annum. We even doubt that such a person exists but, if they do, they will be given:

(1) An initial one year contract on an excellent salary.

(2) The immediate responsibility for a small new shop in the West End.

(3) Very wide scope to put their own ideas into action and prove to us that we should be in retailing in a big way.

Are you the one waiting for—perhaps—the change of a lifetime? Write, with brief details of yourself and career to date, to:

PETER COX
MARSHALL CAVENDISH LTD.
58 Old Compton Street, London, W.1

All applications will be acknowledged

MARKBYS COMMERCIAL CONVEYANCER

Markbys have a vacancy for an experienced conveyancer capable of handling all types of commercial conveyancing work. Salary commensurate with the responsibility and work involved.

TELEPHONE ROY SWEASEY ON 01-638 4090
OR WRITE TO MOOR HOUSE, LONDON WALL, EC2

CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION
U.K. & Commonwealth Branch

Assistant Director (Arts)

Applications are invited for the post of Assistant Director (Arts) at the Foundation's London headquarters in succession to Anthony Wraight recently appointed Drama Director of the Scottish Arts Council. The post involves administering an important programme primarily to assist the arts outside London including individual awards to artists, the arts in education and community arts. The successful applicant will probably be in his or her middle or late thirties with practical experience in at least one of the above fields and proven administrative ability including the drafting of papers for Committees. Salary is commensurate with the responsibility.

APPLICATIONS INCLUDING FULL CURRICULUM VITAE SHOULD REACH PETER BRINSON, DIRECTOR OF THE BRANCH AT 98 PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON W1N 4ET, BY NOT LATER THAN 21ST MARCH, 1977.

Solicitor or Barrister for Paris

INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANY
REQUIRES

English barrister or solicitor for its legal department in Paris.
AGE: 28-45.
Good university degree and law school passes.
Correct French, written and spoken at working level.
EXPERIENCE: Not less than four years' practice in at least three of the following aspects of oil industrial legal matters:
Exploration/production, distribution.
Transport by pipelines or tankers.
Drilling, engineering, pipelaying and other contracts.
Crude and product sales.
Participation agreements, joint venture, production sharing/contracts and inter-company agreements.
Financial agreements: those experienced in these will receive preference.
Good remuneration by arrangement, generous fringe benefits and pension.
Only applicants giving availability and full information as above, and present post will be considered.
Applications will be treated in strict confidence; no approach will be made to employer without applicant's consent.

BOX 0511 J, THE TIMES

SULTANATE OF OMAN

ENGINEERING VACANCIES

A Government Department requires to appoint Engineering Staff. Applications are invited for the following positions:—

WORKSHOP ENGINEER
Able to assume full responsibility for all functions of general Engineering Workshops which will undertake a wide variety of repairs in connection with extensive property maintenance, mechanical and electrical services, domestic equipment, TV and Radio, generators, etc.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
With extensive maintenance experience, ability to control staff engaged on wide variety of work in residential areas and involving repairs to property, A/C central plants, domestic equipment, mechanical services, generators, etc. Preferably with some electrical experience.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS
With extensive maintenance experience, able to control staff engaged on all electrical services to residential areas and involving A/C central plants, domestic equipment, generators, etc. Preferably with some electronic experience.

SENIOR ENGINEER
Preferably with both electrical and mechanical experience. Ideally in connection with all the services provided to a small township and including maintenance of all electrical and mechanical services, sewage treatment plant, water supply, domestic equipment, A/C central plants, generators, etc.

SENIOR ENGINEER
Preferably with both electrical and mechanical experience and maintenance background to undertake responsibility for the control of all mechanical and electrical services in connection with small but important airport and adjacent residential complex. Some electronic experience an advantage.

A/C ENGINEER
With maintenance experience on all types of air conditioning equipment including domestic and package units, chilled water plants, refrigeration, etc.

Attractive tax free salaries. Generous leave. Free bachelor accommodation, medical treatment and air passages. Two-year contracts.
Full details of education, training, professional qualifications, experience and age should be sent to:

Charles Kendall & Partners Ltd.
7 Albert Court, London SW7 2BT

Envelopes must be marked "REF 77/RA/2" and letters should state which vacancy is applied for. Interviews will be held in London.

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR (designate)/ COMPANY SECRETARY

CONSUMER AND VIDEO HOLDINGS LIMITED, a member of the Plantation Holdings Group, are seeking two exceptional individuals to fill the above post in two of their operating subsidiaries. Drive, energy, and, of course, first class technical ability are the qualities we need for these key posts in the management team.
The successful applicants will be responsible for the complete financial function of their company. As part of the top management team, the individual is also expected to contribute significantly to the general management and success of the Company.
Applications are invited from qualified accountants (A.C.A., A.C.M.A., A.C.C.A.) of either sex with at least two years' post qualification experience. Industrial experience is desirable but its absence will be no bar to the right individual.
Please reply, with brief curriculum vitae, in the first instance, to:

GROUP FINANCIAL CONTROLLER,
CONSUMER & VIDEO HOLDINGS LIMITED,
16 THE BROADWAY,
STANMORE, MIDDLESEX HA7 4DW.

All recruitment advertisements on this page are open to both male and female applicants.

GOVERNMENT OF KUWAIT

THE NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY
Invite applications for

PROJECT MANAGERS AND QUANTITY SURVEYORS

PROJECT MANAGERS:
Qualified, Civil Engineers having a minimum of 15 years experience. The Pr[oject] Managers will be responsible for directing all site supervisory staff on projec[ts] 2,000 to 3,000 dwelling units plus all infrastructure and community facilities. Pri[or] experience should be in housing, preferably in land extensive, suburban type pro[jects] such as new town development. They should be completely familiar with all cu[rrent] management techniques in the areas of scheduling, quality control, and cost co[ntrol] and have demonstrated capability in leading a multi-disciplinary site staff.

QUANTITY SURVEYORS:
Qualified Quantity Surveyors having a minimum of 10 years of experience t[o be] responsible to the Project Managers.

Terms of employment would include a 3 year contract and salary and allowa[nces] commensurate with experience.

Applicants will be interviewed in the U.K.

Please send your written applications together with curriculum vitae to:
DAR AL-HANDASAH CONSULTANTS,
(SHAIR & PARTNERS)
91 NEW CAVENDISH STREET W1M 7FS

EMI Qualified Accountant c.£9,000 p.a.

EMI are looking for a Qualified Accountant to take up the post of Financial Controller of its project for a new headquarters being erected at Tottenham Court Road.

The successful applicant will be based at Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1 and will report to the Project Director, but with functional responsibility to the Group Treasurer.

Current experience of cost control, preferably with a leading firm of building contractors, together with the ability to work with a professional team of architects, quantity surveyors and others is essential.

A high degree of self motivation will be required, together with the ability to analyse and report clearly and concisely.

Salary will be around £9,000 per annum, and the duration of the appointment is anticipated to be five years. The post will provide opportunities for further development within the Group.

Please apply in writing to:
E. P. Cowell,
Project Director, EMI Limited,
104, Great Russell Street,
London WC1B 3LF.

All replies will be treated in strict confidence.

International leaders in music, electronics and leisure.

CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER

£13,302—£14,184

The City of Birmingham has a population of over one million and includes a unique variety of industry and commerce within its boundaries.

The Chief Education Officer is responsible to the Education Committee who control the education service, providing some 520 primary, secondary and special schools, with a roll of about 220,000, the City of Birmingham Polytechnic and nine other colleges. The education service employs some 33,000 people (including teachers).

The vacancy is created by the retirement on 30th June 1977 of Mr. K. Brooksbank, D.S.C., M.A., M.Ed.

Telephone 021-235 3748 for application form (to be returned by 8th March 1977) and copy of further particulars; or write to:

City Personnel Officer, Personnel Department, Snow Hill House, 1 & 19 Barwick Street, Birmingham B3 2PF

Canvassing will disqualify.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

EXPORT MANAGER

Salary c. £6,000 plus car — **Location: Northampton**

The job involves the marketing of branded products allied to the Shoe Trade in the EEC and Scandinavian countries. The distribution pattern for the products is through Supermarkets, Shoe Stores, Departmental Stores and Druggists.

The principal requirements are:—
1. Ability to control, co-ordinate and direct the activities of a network of Agents.
2. Assist in the formulation of marketing policy and strategy for each market.
3. Possess good commercial knowledge and ability to negotiate.
4. Ability to speak German and French highly desirable though not essential.
5. Experience of export selling.

The succesful applicant must be prepared to spend a considerable amount of time abroad operating in the markets. Desired age 23/38. The position offers excellent opportunity for advancement.

This vacancy is open to Male and Female.

Reply to Box 0270 J, The Times.

A well known US construction equipment man[ufac]turer at the request of one of his indepe[ndent] distributors in the Middle East invites applica[tions for] the following positions:

1. GENERAL MANAGER

MIDDLE EAST CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT DEALERSH[IP]

A self-starter, he will set-up, organize and coor[dinate] the sales, parts and service activities in the distributorship as well as in the branches.

A minimum of 5 years' management experi[ence,] knowledge of construction equipment and abili[ty to] work with people are required.

Middle East experience an asset.

2. SERVICE MANAGER

MIDDLE EAST CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT DEALERSH[IP]

He will be in charge of organizing and managin[g] after sales and parts division in the main distributo[rship] as well as the branches reporting to the Ge[neral] Manager.

A minimum of 5 years' management, a thor[ough] technical knowledge of construction equipment, [and] ability to work with people are required.

Middle East experience an asset.

Please apply with curriculum vitae to Box 05[..] The Times.

All enquiries will be treated in strict confidenc[e.]

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

ALANGATE Legal Staff, the specialist consultants to the profession, offer a confidential service to employers and staff at all levels. Telephone for appointment or write to Mrs Roinick, Mrs Harkness or Mr Gates, 01-405 7201, at 6 Great Queen St., London, W.C.2. (off Kingsway).

FINANCE & ACCOUNTANCY

ACTUARIAL STUDENT required by the S. M. Hyman Company. Salary £2,700. Please telephone 01-403 7133.

BOOKKEEPER/SECRETARY with experience for Antique Dealers, 5-day week. Hours 10 until 5 negotiable. Apply John Keil, 151 Brompton Road, S.W.3. Tel. 589 ....

INTERNATIONAL BANKING Appointments, all levels. Tel. Basis Employment, 623 5661.

OPENINGS at all levels in the Profession—Gabriel Duffy Consultancy, Kensington. 01-937 9521.

FINANCE & ACCOUNTANCY

TWO JUNIOR ACCOUNTANTS

Career openings within Financial Division of U.S.A. multi-national company based in London, NW2. Applicants should send brief career and personal details to:

D. GARRETT
YORK DIVISION OF BORG-WARNER LTD.
715 North Circular Road,
London, NW2 7AU

SALES AND MARKETING

SEVERAL AREAS FREE NOW

Sales Service Representatives wanted immediately by leading manufacturer of code-dating equipment. Apply Packmark Sales Ltd., East Ord Rd., Berwick upon Tweed.

SECURITY SALES AGENTS
Freelance Sales Agents
required to promote a first-class range of high-security products to the trade and commercial/industrial users. Commission terms by arrangement.
Apply in first instance to 01-387 0796 (24 hours) for brochures, etc.

DISPLAY SALES. If you are about 30, and have top level experience of selling to agencies and advertisers, you'll be interested in a vacancy with a National Quality Newspaper. This is a key job in a hardworking professional Department and carries an appropriate salary. Write to: Box 0078 J, The Times.

NOTICE

All advertisements are subject to the conditions of acceptance of Times Newspapers Limited, copies of which are available on request.

SCOTTISH SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH IN PLANT BREEDING

SENIOR SCIENTIFIC OFFICER/ PRINCIPAL SCIENTIFIC OFFICER

The Potato Department of the Scottish Plant Breeding Station wishes to appoint a Senior Scientific Officer/Principal Scientific Officer to work on the Tuberosum breeding programme.

The person appointed will be required to work in a team which is engaged in breeding new varieties that will meet the changing needs of growers and consumers, and that are resistant to the major potato diseases.

Considerable experience in plant breeding and/or crop physiology and/or plant genetics is required for this appointment.

Qualifications: 1st or upper 2nd class Honours degree in a biological subject and must have at least 4 years' relevant post-graduate research experience for appointment at SSO and 10 years relevant post-graduate research experience for appointment at PSO.

Salary: Senior Scientific Officer within the scale £4,185-£5,778 per annum plus a supplement of £313.20 per annum.
Principal Scientific Officer within the scale £5,514-£7,205 per annum plus a supplement of £313.20 per annum.
The post is superannuable.

Application forms from the Secretary, Scottish Plant Breeding Station, Pentlandfield, Roslin, Midlothian, EH25 9RF, to be returned not later than 4th March, 1977.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Wales

UWIST

APPLIED ECONOMICS LECTURER
(Micro-Economics)

Lecturer Scale:
£3 333-£6,655

★

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND ACCOUNTANCY RESEARCH FELLOW

Three years from October, 1977, which will involve tutorial teaching for organizational behaviour or business policy.

Salary:
£3,333-£3,547-£3,761

★

Requests (quoting Ref. T) for details and application form to Personnel Section (Academic) UWIST, Cardiff CF1 3NU

Closing date 18 March 1977

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Bath

ACCOMMODATION MANAGER

Applications are invited for this non-resident post which involves the administration of all residential accommodation of the University and the students' lodgings service. In addition to term-time services for students, the post will require promotion of conference and holiday facilities.
The successful applicant is likely to be between 35-50 years of age and have had managerial experience in residential institutions of higher educational establishments. Applicants with suitable equivalent experience will be considered.
Salary in the range £5,423-£6,633 per annum.
Application forms and further particulars obtainable from The Personnel Officer, University of Bath, Bath, BA2 7AY, quoting reference number 77/6 TT. Closing date for application 11th March, 1977.

The University of Liverpool

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY PRESS

Applications are invited from graduates or persons holding an equivalent qualification, with practical experience of academic publishing and the promotion of an academic book list, for the above post. A general knowledge of publishing from initiation to publication would be an advantage.
The salary will be within the range £5,333-£5,627 per annum. The initial salary will depend upon the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate.
Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Registrar, The University, P.O. Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX, by whom the completed application forms should be received not later than 18th March, 1977. Quote Ref. RV 991/T.

Secretarial and Non-Secretarial also on page 25

NON-SECRETARIAL

BOOK SELLING

We have a vacancy for someone to work as

SALES ASSISTANT

in our well known Book Shop. Would suit a young person keen to make a career in this interesting and rewarding trade.
Please phone Mr Pemberton, 01-235 2128.
TRUSLOVE & HANSON,
Booksellers, 205 Sloane Street,
London SW1X 9LG.

JUST A LITTLE COMMONSENSE

plus initiative and a responsible attitude to work, together with some clerical experience are all you need for this interesting and demanding job with small, very active UK Agency, situated at Marble Arch, of European Manufacturing Group. You'll be controlling our transport from the factories via transporters to the clients, so you'll be aged mid-to-late 20s, intelligent and organised, with an assured telephone manner.
Starting salary negotiable around £2,700 plus LV's and attractive bonus.
Contact J. B. Whittome or L. P. Joyce on 499 5981.

(CLARITUDE LIMITED)

PART-TIME, KNIGHTSBRIDGE. Reliable, capable person required for permanent job to help in office connected with restaurant. Hours 11 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.—584 7241.

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT with good secretarial skills. Will provide a good practical training in all aspects of Personnel work for important American Company in central London. Might suit someone wishing to do IPM diploma. Judy Farquharson Ltd, 01-493 8824.

NON-SECRETARIAL

CLERK/TYPIST

to assist commercial coordinator with financial shipping and accounting matters, etc., in WC1. Accuracy is important and good telephone manner necessary.
Salary in excess of £2 400.
Please telephone initially to discuss and arrange interview.
Mr. Start
01-405 1733
10-12 a.m.

HOW MUCH ARE YOU WORTH?

Would you like to control your earnings? Be assessed on personal performance and encouraged to develop into a Management position as Counsellor with our International Personnel Organization? If you have plenty of initiative and enjoy a challenge, call me for more details.—Ann Morris, 734 0911. DRAKE PERSONNEL (Agency), 225 Regent Street, W.1.

INTERVIEWER, NEGOTIATOR for leading accommodation agency. Personality and initiative more important than previous experience. Driving licence and a foreign language an advantage. 01-229 1800.

CITY RECEPTIONIST: 5 varying jobs in EC2, 5 and 4 for smart, trained receptionists with some typing. 20-50. To £3,300 M & J Personnel, 2nd Floor, 80 Bishopsgate, EC2. 588 0174.

LIBRARIAN, INFORMATION OFFICER.— See General Vacancies.

NURSING EXPERIENCE and knowledge of figures essential for person to assist in busy agency, W.2 area. Sal. neg. 723 2710

THE FERMOY ART GALLERY requires Administrator.—See Gen. Appts.

GALLERY requires Receptionist/Typist, 20-plus.—262 4906.

NON-SECRETARIAL

EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

Have you spent some time interviewing and placing a wide range of personnel?

Were you successful? Come and tell us about it.

Do you want room to expand and a bit more of a challenge?

Do you want the rewards your ability can command.

Then please phone Gillian, you might be pleasantly surprised.

437 9801

NINE ELEVEN LTD.

SECRETARIAL

ROMSEY SHOW SECRETARY required, to commence on 1st January, 1978. Please write for details and application form to Romsey Show, Challis Hill House, Stockbridge, Hampshire, SO20 6JS.

GRADUATES with some secretarial training. Temp. posts to 150p. Tolson Staff Bureau, 734 0107.

ADVERTISING CO. (Fleet St.) seek enthusiastic young Secretary-cum-Assistant to become involved in a variety of duties from Consumer Affairs to Press Conferences. Good skills please. £2,800. Monica Grove Recruitment Ltd., 839 1927.

PERSONAL SECRETARY required by (two Partners) in substantial professional firm near Piccadilly Circus. Salary £3,000 to £3,500 p.a. Friendly modern office. 4 weeks holiday, sandwich bar. Good education, experience and personality desirable. Telephone 01-237 2596.

COMPANY DIRECTOR/LLOYDS BROKER needs PA/Sec., 21+. Informal City office. Vacancy caused by promotion. Good formal skills essential but accent on meeting clients, booking lunches, organising & generally running his office. Must be nicely presented, very much a "front" job with prospects. To £3,500 p.a., LV's, fringe benefits. JOYCE GUINESS BUREAU, 589 8807/0010.

PRESTIGE PUBLICITY for top people and companies is the work of this nice man, well known in his field. He needs a Daimler driving P.A. with all the social graces and good secretarial skills. Green Park area. Salary circa £3,500ish. Judy Farquharson Ltd. 01-493 8824.

ADVERTISING. Young keen secretary with good skills for informal W1 Agency circa £2,400. Judy Farquharson Ltd. 01-493 8824.

SECRETARIAL

BI LING. SEC. English... work for small City... be capable of workin[g]... initiative. Sal. £3,500... Freeman Employment... 248 1043.

SENIOR PARTNER—a... everything—for the... Lincoln's Inn Solicitors... £3,700. Covent Garden... 55 Fleet St., E.C.4.

PEER with wide intere[sts]... Secretary in West End... under 50. Good shor[thand]... audio typing essentia[l]... £3,700 p.a. Telephone... Gale, 01-499 1116.

BI-LING SEC. Eng./F... work for Director of... Very varied and interes[ting]... Sal. £3,500. Judy... Employment Bureau...

SECRETARIES. If you... contemplating making a ch[ange]... not call in and see us... and a chat? We hav[e a]... selection of permanent... both shorthand and au[dio]... areas of London: salar[ies]... ing from £2,600 to £3,... more details call Cent... 225 Kensington High... 01-937 6525 or... W.C.2. 01-836 297...

SECRETARY for Partner... firm of accountants in... Age 22/30. Salary... from £3,000 487 599...

Remind[er]

every Wedne[sday] and Th[ursday]

هكذا من الأصل

SECRETARIAL

PA/SECRETARY

£3,500-£4,000

enior Executive of the Construction Division of a large Middle East Trading Organisation eeds a Secretary, aged over 25, who has ccurate shorthand and typing, plus full secretarial experience.

his is a newly created job and as the Executive spends some time travelling out of London, bility to work on own initiative is expected. nowledge of French or German would be helpful but not necessary.

he recently opened office in London, about 15 eople, is at Blackfriars but will be moving to e West End, possibly Hyde Park Corner, in out 4 months time.

For application form please telephone Mrs Fergus, 01-628 6926

OLUMBUS FIRST HOUSING ASSOCIATION

2 NEW SECRETARIAL APPOINTMENTS

al Assistant Secretary to Director and Finance Officer. ll involve office administration and fact finding as well as secretarial duties. Shorthand and ability to work with and purpose essential.

ry Finance Assistant for Finance Department with e of bookkeeping up to Trial Balance, and good typing. d desirable.

negotiable between £3,000 and £3,400 according to age erience for both posts. 4 weeks' holiday. Friendly ent.

pply to Rosemary Richards on 01-567 0619 or write to:

Director, 15 Cleveland Square, London W2 6DG

SECRETARIAL

INTERNATIONAL INTERIOR DESIGN GROUP

need first-class PA/Secretary to Partners and Design Team. Experience in assisting with the Management of small fast-moving Department or Company an advantage. Fast and reliable typing essential. Other secretarial and accounting staff employed. Pleasant Chelsea studio/offices. Salary realistic, terms and conditions by negotiation.

Contact Tina 352 3774.

TWO BRIGHT

CHEERFUL, ADAPTABLE, EFFICIENT SHORTHAND SECRETARIES

required for small, very friendly office in the investment and legal world, aged 20-28. Modern offices, 1 minute from Green Park station. L.V's and 3 weeks holiday per annum. Salaries negotiable. Telephone Caroline or Lindsay on 499 7551

ADVERTISING SEC./P.A. £3,250 p.a.

Lively Secretary/P.A. needed for Managing Director of Advertising Agency. Lots of organising and client contact at high level. Good atmosphere.

Apply: Marylin, 836 8722

Secretary Shorthand Typist

required for Director who is also the Company Secretary. 4 weeks' holidays, staff restaurant, own office in pleasant surroundings in Fleet St. Salary in accordance with age and experience.

PROJECT SECRETARY

SECRETARIAL

TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED

REQUIRE

SECRETARIES

We have several vacancies for experienced and capable secretaries in our Business News, Home News, "Spectrum" and Advertising Departments. If you are over 20 years old, of G.C.E. "O" level standard, like using your initiative and have good secretarial skills, you could be just the person we need.

There are generous holidays (4 weeks 3 days) and salary is in the region of £2,500 p.a. upwards.

To make an appointment please ring:

MOIRA NEENAN
TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED
200 GRAY'S INN ROAD, LONDON WC1X 8EZ
Telephone: 01-837 1243, ext. 398

BRITISH MUSEUM

An Assistant is required for the office of Dr D. M. Wilson, Director of the British Museum. The work is interesting and calls for tact and initiative. Both men and women may apply.

Minimum technical skills 100 w.p.m. shorthand: 30 w.p.m. typing. Starting pay £47.41 p.w. to £50.61 p.w. (according to age and experience). These rates are inclusive of a London Weighting Allowance of £8.91 p.w. and a supplement of £6 p.w.

Proficiency allowances are payable for higher technical skills. There is a non-contributory pension scheme.

Write on a postcard to Establishments 1 (Ref 15/77),

BRITISH MUSEUM,
Great Russell St., WC1B 3DG,
for an application form.

CHARTERED SURVEYORS AND ESTATE AGENTS

NEAR MARBLE ARCH

SECRETARY

for Senior Partner in busy but friendly office (six branches). Aged 30+. Shorthand and audio. Responsibilities will include supervision of 4/5 typists and control of stationery and equipment. Salary up to £3,500 p.a. Pension and life assurance.

Please 'phone for appointment:

Mr J. P. Hollamby, FRICS,
CHESTERTONS
40 Connaught Street, London W2 2AB
01-262 7202

The French Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain

Seeks English mother-tongue skilled bi-lingual Secretary. Shorthand required. Please write in French to The French Chamber of Commerce, 196 Sloane St., S.W.1.

INTERNATIONAL SHOE DESIGN STUDIO

Needs an efficient career-minded Secretary (with shorthand) to work with a busy creative team. Requires organising ability and ambition to become part of the team. Salary not less than £3,000.

Ring Miss Rushbrooke on 01-628 9522

THE WINE SOCIETY

The Secretary of the Wine Society, the largest independent Wine Merchants in the country, and now in its second century, requires at the small but busy London office a bright, mature, good shorthand secretary. Duties interesting and variable. Own office. Conveniently situated to 3 Underground Stations. Hours 9-5.

Applications to The Secretary: IECWS Ltd., 53 Bolsover Street, London W.1.

Tel: 01-387 4681

£3,700 FOR FLUENT FRENCH!

Chairman and M.D. of medium sized dress manufacturers need an experienced 35 plus, Secretary with fluent conversational French and a strong personality to take over a key role with real responsibilities. Highly confidential and interesting work. Perks include free lunches and clothes discounts. Miss Ross, Challoners, 23 Wormwood St., E.C.2. 638 3846.

MANAGING DIRECTOR

of International Cargo Organisation requires full time Secretary. Shorthand essential, golfball IBM typewriter. L.Vs., BUPA. Office is convenient for

GRADUATES WITH SECRETARIAL SKILLS

Interested in permanent or temporary work in non-commercial fields, charities, hospitals, universities, etc., are invited to telephone:

PROSPECT TEMPS LTD.

SECRETARIAL

NEWS! NEWS! NEWS! SECRETARY

Be there when the Teleprinters spring to life as news happens throughout the world. Manager within this News Service requires person with top skills and ability to cope with pressures of this field. £3,250, 4 weeks hols, staff rest

A1 STAFF
404 5591

BILINGUAL SEC., English/French, for Personnel Manager. Good education plus 5 years' sec. exp. W.1. Salary c. £3,500 plus bonus + 60p per day L.Vs. + 3 weeks' hols.—Judy Freeman Employment Bureau, 248 1043.

MAGAZINE Social Editor requires a mature (25+) capable, accurate, hard-working, non-smoking secretary. Attractive office near Victoria, electric typewriter, L.V.s., etc. Please ring: Beverlie Flower on 834 2331.

SEC. to Direct. in W.1 Oil Co. Must have excellent secretarial skills and ability to work on own initiative. Starting salary £3,600 + 60p L.V.s per day + 4 wks. hols. Judy Freeman Employment Bureau 248 1043.

GERMAN/ENGLISH speaking secretary required by Damag Industrial Equipment Ltd., for their Brentford office. Shorthand desirable must like figure work. Salary £3,000 +. Please phone Mrs Socker at 560 2188.

MOTOR CARS

JENSEN INTERCEPTOR Mk. III

N REG. Company chairman's car, chauffeur driven. Only 12,500 miles. Service history. Royal blue with light blue trim and sheepskin seats. Air conditioning and all usual extras.

£5,500

Tel. 527 2212 after 6

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"ST JOHN'S WOOD. Luxury flat own room, C.H., C.H.W. Col. T.V. free parking. Prefer mature travelling business person. £95 p.c.m. (incl.) 624 9378."

LARGE ROOM, Chiswick residential. Share/single in spacious flat: c.h., services. £20 p.w.—994 5665 after 8 p.m.

FLAT-SHARE, 213 Piccadilly. 734 0318 Professional people sharing.

MAIDA VALE.—Freshly decorated single room in tastefully furnished flat, needs girl to complete. £14 p.w.—286 5722 after 6 p.m.

S.W.4.—Girl to share flat £37 pcm. Phone 671 0207 after 6 pm.

SHARE-A-FLAT. Personal, efficient service. 175 Piccadilly. 493 1265.

OWN BEDROOM and bathroom in Westbourne Terrace flat. £100 per month. 262 4026.

FLATMATES. Specialists—313 Brompton Rd. SW3 589 5491.

FULHAM. Double room for 1, 2. £23 pw. (incl.—736 8027 eves.

EALING COMMON.—Large flat, all mod. cons., share room. £11 p.w.—992 1757 (Trevor) (after 11 a.m.).

S.W.16.—Girl 21-26 to share room in flat £38 p.c.m. 328 5641. Ext. 102.

N.W.6.—Prof. male share luxury flat. 3-4 mths. Own room. Incl. C.H., £18 p.w. 624 4955 after 6.

SOPHISTICATED ex-public school man, late 20's to share lovely flat in Hamilton Terrace. £79 p.m. (C.H., C.H.W. incl.).—286 5318.

LUXURY COTTAGE in Hampstead G.S. Own large room and loo; double bed. Share bath and kitchen with one other. £80 p.c.m. inc.—01-458 8095.

RICHMOND.—Male 24+, own cabin on large boat, delightful moorings. All amenities, £35 p.m.—Phone 878 2179.

S.W.15.—Close to Putney Heath. Large double room in luxury C.H. garden flat. Suit professional couple or 2 females in 20's. £8 p.w. each excl.—788 4983.

LADY seeks own room. N.W.3 area. Use of kit. & bath. Ring 602 1870.

N.W.3.—Own room: c.h., c.h.w.: £20 p.w. inclusive.—01-624 4595 (after 6.30).

PROF. GIRL, English, studying Honours degree in Russian and German, requires accommodation: flat or house, furnished or unfurnished, and preferably near park area.—01-229 4079 after 6.

COMFORTABLE ROOM: Mon. to Fri.: bed and breakfast. Good class family home: Queensway.—01-229 6860.

W3 house, own room, female, £15 pw. incl.—993 2771.

PIMLICO, girl to share room in

RENTALS

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A COMPREHENSIVE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE OFFERED TO LANDLORDS

by long-established specialists always requiring furnished houses in South London: Surrey and Kent for executives of international companies and diplomatic personnel. Rent £30-£150 per week for 1/2/3 years.

01-688 4185
125 South End, Croydon Surrey

Anderton & Son

Japanese businessman requires 3/4 bed hse in Sutton/Wallington area, up to £70 p.w. for 2 yrs. Australian executive and family seek 5 bed hse for 1 yr, up to £100 p.w. Canadian bankers and families require 3/4 bed hses in Chislehurst. Many others seeking properties in Croydon and surrounding areas. If you have a suitable property, please 'phone, write

27/29 Brighton Rd., Croydon
01-686 7941 (5 lines)

Kenwood The Letting People

Telephone 01 402 9408/9

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Luxury penthouse flat, 2 double bedrooms, 1 single, 2 bathrooms (one en suite), large reception, fully fitted kitchen with dishwasher, washing machine, deep freeze; C.H., T.V., piano, lift.

£240 p.w.
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...ws of the week is that ace comedy actor Ronnie Barker is back for a new ...of Porridge (BBC1 8.30), involved with some pills from the prison ... Another Bouquet (ITV 9.0) ends its present run with some more ...ay family crises, Horizon (BBC2 9.25) is a somewhat distressing look ...cal experiments on animals—5.5 million last year—but Penelope ...10.46) is a funny, off-beat film with Natalie Wood robbing ...sband's bank.—T.S.

BBC 2

6.40 am, Open University: A Woman's Work; 7.30-7.55, Imagery and Imagism. 11.00-11.25, Play School. 5.20 pm, Open University: Solids, Liquids and Gases; 5.45, Dynamics of an Affluent Region; 6.10, Psychosexual Differences (1); 6.35, An Archi-...

Thames

12.00, Kathy's Quiz. 12.10 pm, Rainbow. 12.30, Hello, Good Afternoon, Welcome. 1.00, News. 1.20, Today's Post. 1.30, About Britain. 2.00, Good Afternoon. 2.25, Film: Wheeler and Murdock, with Jack Warden, Christopher Stone, Van Johnson, Diane Baker. 3.50, ...

ATV

12.00, Thames. 1.20 pm, ATV News. 1.30, Thames. 2.25, Film: Miss Robin Hood, with Margaret Rutherford, Richard Hearne. 3.50, Thames. 5.15, ATV Today. 5.45, News. 6.00, ATV Today. 6.35, Crossroads. 7.00, Beryl's Lot. 7.30, Emergency. 9.00, London. 10.30-12.15, ...

Southern

London Weekend

Yorkshire

Granada

Scottish

Border

Radio

Grampian

Tyne Tees

Anglia

GALERIE ISY BRACHOT

(continued on page 26)

". . . Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."—1 Samuel 7: 12.

BIRTHS

BAKER.—On 17th February, 1977, in St Albans, to Roger and Elizabeth Baker—a daughter (Rachel Catherine).

BARTON.—On 17th February, 1977, in Cheltenham, to Heather (nee Boys) and Simon—a son (Francis George Edward).

CARLING.—On Wed, 2nd Feb, at King's College Hospital, to Judy (nee Moorhouse) and Philip—a son (Guy Philip), a brother for Matthew.

FULLERTON.—On 17th February in Melbourne, Victoria, to Veryan (nee Geilie) and John—a daughter (Tamsin).

GILBART-SMITH.—On 17th February, at Princess Christian's Nursing Home, Windsor, to Candy and Brian—a son (Mark Claud Oliver), a brother for Emmalena.

HARTER.—On February 11th, to Jenny and Andrew—a son (Dominic James Andrew), a brother for Paul and Alison and half-brother for Nicolas.

O'CONNOR.—On Feb. 16th, to Rosslyn (nee Skeen) and Major Neil O'Connor—a son (Edward Stuart), brother for Annabel and Caroline.

POWELL-JONES. — On February 12th, in Hongkong, to Susan (nee Healy) and Major Evan Powell-Jones, 6th Q.E.O. Gurkha Rifles—a daughter (Megan Elizabeth).

TWEED.—On 15th February at the Royal Berkshire Hospital to Susan (nee Bentley) and Richard—a daughter.

USBORNE.—On 17th February, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Patricia (nee Moulding) and Barnaby—a daughter.

BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY 21ST, CHARLES! Love, Carol, Richard, Charles, Paul and Michael.

TIM.—Happy Birthday, love.—Jo.

MARRIAGES

ILES : HEATON-ARMSTRONG.—On February 11th, 1977, in Melbourne, John Beresford, youngest son of the late Mr James Iles and of Mrs. Doris Iles, to Mary Suzanne, eldest daughter of Mr. W. H. O. Heaton-Armstrong, of Blandys Farm, Upper Basildon, Berks, and Mrs. Idonea Rodgers, of Istanbul, Turkey. Current address, 13 Alta Street, Canterbury, Victoria 3126, Australia.

RUTHERFORD : YUE.—On February 12th at St Paul's Church, Hong Kong, Garry, son of Mr and Mrs R. C. Rutherford and Nora, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs W. K. Yue.

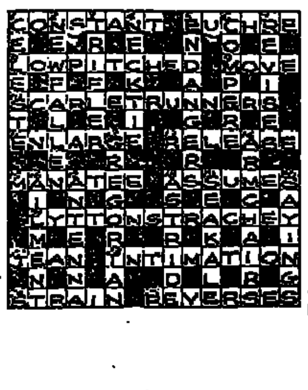
SCOTT-STEVENSON : RIMMER.—On Feb. 12th, 1977, at Blundellsands, Liverpool, Iain, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Scott-Stevenson, of Sydney, Australia, to Marie Christine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs B. Rimmer, of Blundellsands.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 14,535

ACROSS
1 Posh singer, about to die, goes to Kentucky (6).
4 Legendary underdog? (8).
10 A precious stone for Jack in these—seek out (7).
11 Craft of a sanctimonious rascal (7).
12 Ignorant, when not in mufti, about a point (10).
13 King Alfred pales, retreating from this fire (4).
15 Claiming a right, one runs into trouble owing to this (3-4).
17 Sort of dividend one gets in, in school-time (7).
19 Indict beer in a manner of speaking? (7).
21 Lets off minor expenses, including many a pint (7).
23 Ordered invalid to take note (4).
24 Adam's queer sort of disguise (10).
27 Course for a violinist taking part (7).
28 What you will name as the country scene (7).
29 Perhaps they will include red one in characteristic transmission (8).
30 Simsonstown long ago in North Africa (6).

DOWN
1 Stayed thus a day in France with Edward (9).
2 Sale of uranium in a lawsuit (7).
3 Halcyon days for Jeremy given top job (10).
5 Gap-filling oath (9).
6 Wounding remark for a horse (4).
7 Thoroughgoing soldier (7).
8 Bottoms up in the briny will be shiny (5).
9 Sort of coal fish? (4).
14 Oriental article indeed is in heavenly style (10).
16 To call Doyle's Musgrave one is titular confusion (9).
18 Do as you shouldn't, Monsieur, with forms of auxiliary verbs (9).
20 A place in Hants, plus a bit of cricket (7).
22 Hiawatha legends came "from the forests and the ——s" (7).
23 Baby's bed made up with hard sort of wood (5).
25 Test knowledge of a queer-looking card (4).
26 Archer's aim is proverbially good (4).

Solution of Puzzle No 14,534



DEATHS

BARFORD.—On 17th February, 1977, peacefully, Marjorie Laura Owen, of 53 Croydon Rd., Reigate, aged 81. Cremation at Croydon Crematorium on Wednesday, 23rd February, at 3.45 p.m.

BERNARD.—On the 16th February, peacefully, Morogh Wyndham Percy, husband of Diana and father of Maria, grandfather of Rosanne. Funeral service at Putney Crematorium on Tuesday, February 22nd at 3.30 p.m. Flowers to Kenyons, 74 Rochester Row, S.W.1.

COOLING.—On Feb. 15th, Leonard Frank, M.Sc., D.Sc., A.I.C.E., of 1? Talbot Avenue, Watford. Dearly loved husband of Mary and father of Christine. Formerly assistant director of the Building Research Station, Garston. Funeral at West Herts Crematorium, Garston, on Thursday 24th February, at 2 p.m.

COOPER.—On February 17th, suddenly Malcolm Edward (Breeze), of Heron House, Chorleywood adored husband of the late Chris, beloved father of Diana Swerling and Deirdre Stevens, dear grandpa to Simon, Jane, Joanna, Guy, Kate and Claire. Service at Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham, at 11.30 a.m., on Thursday, 24th February. No flowers please.

CRUMP.—On February 16th, in her own home, 30, Quarry Lane, Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridge, Hylda Marian, formerly of Green End Cottage, Little Slaughton, in her 91st year, daughter of the late Rev and Mrs James Benjamin Crump of Idridgehay, Derby, dearly loved aunt, great aunt and great great aunt. Funeral at All Saints Church, Little Staughton, 2-30 p.m. Tuesday, February 22nd.

DANDIE.—On 15th February, 1977, at Clifton Hospital, York, Alexander Stirling Oliphant Dandie, O.B.E., J.P., 14/30 Ethel Terrace, Edinburgh. Dearly loved husband of the late Elizabeth Dobbie Scotland and dear father of Christine Shaw, 2 Rossett Park Road, Harrogate. Service at Mortonhall Crematorium, Edinburgh, on Monday, 21st February, at 12 noon, to which all friends are invited, no flowers, please.

GOODWYN.—On 16th February, peacefully, at Angmering-on-Sea, Wyndham Thomasson Goodwyn, B.Com., AIB, aged 77 years, husband of Bernardine. No flowers by request.

HETHERINGTON.—On 16th February, 1977, Marjory, peacefully, at her home, 30, Glencairn Drive, Ealing, W.5. Beloved sister of Dick, Joan and the late Geoffrey, and daughter of Walter and Margaret Hetherington, deceased, of Alton, Hampshire. Funeral service at St. Barnabas Church, Ealing on 22nd February at 12.15 p.m. Flowers may be sent to Wickenden and Son Ltd., 72 Northfield Avenue, Ealing, W.13.

HODGE.—On 14th February, 1977, peacefully in hospital, Arthur, Lt.-Col., D.S.O., M.C., beloved husband of Nan, and father of Carmel, John and Gerald. Requiem mass, Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Hills Road, Cambridge, on 23rd February, at 11.30 a.m.

HOPWOOD.—On 15th Feb., 1977, at Ascot Nursing Home, John Henry, darling husband of Catherine and beloved father of Philippa. Family flowers only. Funeral private. No letters please.

KNOX.—On February 17th, 1977, at Little Anstice, Crookham, Hampshire, Violet Ileene Cassandra, widow of Major Charles Knox and daughter of the late Col. Richard Meysey-Thompson. Funeral at 3 p.m., on Monday, February 21st, at Little Ouseburn, Yorkshire.

LLOYD.—On February 16th, Arthur Henry (Richard), at Braeside, Studland, Dorset. Late of The Baltic Exchange. Dearly loved husband of Vera. Cremation private, family flowers only.

McCAUL.—On February 15th, suddenly after a short illness, Margaret Beatrice Isobel, of Afton Down House, Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight. Very dear sister of Ione. Funeral private, please. No flowers.

MERZER.—On Feb. 11th, 1977, Lew, a loving husband, father and grandfather.

MOUNTAIN.—On Feb. 17th, peacefully, after a short illness, Brian Edward Stanley Mountain, Bt. Beloved husband of Doris and father of Denis, Fleur and Nicky. Funeral private and memorial service later.

OGILVIE, GRISELDA DORIS HELEN.—On February 15th, 1977, at Clayesmead, Thorpeness, suddenly, of coronary thrombosis. Beloved sister of Ailsa, Bruce and Elspeth. Much loved aunt and great-aunt. Funeral private. No letters, please.

POWELL. — On February 14th, 1977, Alicia Mary Powell of Eastbourne, Sussex, peacefully. Cremation at Eastbourne Crematorium, Langley on Monday February 21st at 2 p.m. Funeral arrangements by Haines of South Street, Eastbourne.

ROSE.—On February 16th, 1977, peacefully, in hospital after a short illness, Charles Holland Rose, F.R.I.B.A., aged 90 years, of East Horsley, and formerly of St. Nicholas Hill, Leatherhead. Service at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, on Monday, February 21st, at 3 p.m. No flowers by his request.

ROWE.—On 15th Feb., 1977, Millicent Irene (nee Baird), aged 79, suddenly in her home in Sway, Hampshire. Cremation private on Monday, 21st February. Memorial service at St. Luke's Church, Sway, on Sat., 26th February, at 2.30 p.m. Flowers to A. Cleveland, South Weirs, Brockenhurst. Tel. 3348.

SCHWAB.—On February 16th, peacefully in his 87th year, Max H., B.Sc. (Eng. London), C.Eng., M.I.C.E., M.I.Mech.E., F.R.S.A. of 7 Donnybrook, 183 Mudeford Lane, Christchurch, Dorset (late of Millhill), much loved husband of Margery and father of Stella and John. Funeral private. No flowers or mourning by his request. Service at All Saints' Church, Mudeford, on Wednesday, 23rd February, at 12 p.m. followed by cremation.

SCLATER.—On 16th February, 1977, Evelyn, of Fourfoot House, Eype, Bridport. Beloved wife of Major V. C. Sclater. Funeral service at St. Peter's Church, Eype, on Saturday, 19th February, at 2.30 p.m. Flowers may be sent to A. G. Down Ltd., Funeral Directors, 66 South Street, Bridport. Tel. 22643.

SHERRINGTON.—On February 16th, peacefully at Aldeburgh, Suffolk, Margaret, widow of Charles Ely Rose and mother of Unity. Service at Ipswich Crematorium, on February 22nd, at 12 noon. No flowers please. Donations, if wished, to the distressed Gentlefolks Aid Association.

STRICKLAND.—On February 15th, peacefully in an Eastbourne nursing home, Florence Gladys, aged 85, widow of George, beloved mother of John and Robert and dear grandmother of Sarah and William. Funeral service at Eastbourne Crematorium on Wednesday February 23rd at 3.30 p.m. Flowers may be sent to Haine and Son, 19 South St., Eastbourne.

TURTON.—On February 16th, 1977, quietly, in his home, James Richard Henry Turton, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., aged 93 years, dearly loved husband of the late Ethel and father of Mary Ellen. Funeral private. Donations in his memory may be made to the League of Friends of any hospital in Sussex with which he was associated.

VERDON.—On February 17th, at Bleasdale in Lancashire, Bee, wife of the late Francis Verdon of Sidbury, Devon, and dearly loved mother of Anne, Marguerite, and Judy. Funeral private.

WAKEHOUSE.—On 14th February, Inez, much loved wife of Christopher, after a long illness at Trillinghurst Oast, Goudhurst, Kent. No flowers but donations to the Society for Autistic Children would be appreciated.

FUNERALS

BRENTON.—The funeral of Ursula Marjorie Brenton will take place at 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 23rd February at Holy Innocents High Beach and NOT at 12 noon as previously notified.

HARRISON.—The funeral service for the late Percy and Joyce Harrison will be held at St. Thomas's Cathedral, Old Portsmouth, on Monday, February 21st, at noon, followed by private cremation. Flowers to Andrews, Kingston Crescent, Portsmouth, or donations, in lieu, for the Youth Club of the Rotary Club of Portsmouth and Southsea, c/o Michael Palmer, 92 Osborne Road, Southsea.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HAGGIS.—A memorial service for Frederick Haggis, F.R.C.O., A.R.C.M., founder of the Goldsmiths Choral Union, will be held at All Soul's, Langham Place, W.1. on Saturday, February 26th, at 3 p.m.

IN MEMORIAM

TEMPLE.—In proud memory of Bert Temple, a Founder of Ye A.O.F.B., who died, February 18th, 1931. Dorothy Roper.

NORTH, HETTY, M.B.E.—Feb. 18, 1975. Lovingly remembered and deeply missed.—Nellie.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

PARKER HAMLYN.—The family of the late T. W. Parker Hamlyn thank all relatives and friends for their condolences and support during their time of bereavement. He would have appreciated it, as they do.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 25

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ELECTIONS

The following elections have been made, with effect from 1st October, 1977:—

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Mr David Ian Attwell, B.A., Magdalen College.

To a Fellowship by Examination in Philosophy
Mr Martin Kinsey Davies, B.Phil., B.A. (Monash), New College.

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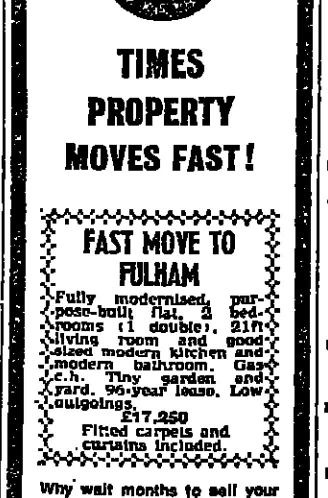

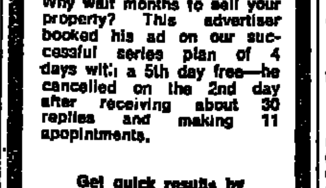

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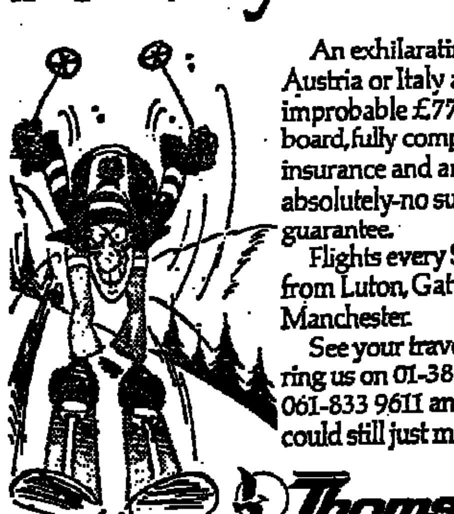

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هكذا من الأصل

Banking in the Middle East

a Special Report on the money that flows from oil

Still not out of the woods

l Blake

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the change in the share-out of the surplus, which in the immediate aftermath of the oil price rise belonged in part to a wide range of countries. Rising imports in almost all the countries which have large populations mean that the number of nations which have substantial surplus funds has fallen. Only the states of The Gulf, and most notably Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, have emerged as consistent surplus producers.

The difficulty, and the opportunity, of handling these surpluses has fallen largely on the commercial sector. Attempts have been made to set up far greater official systems of support to channel funds from the surplus countries to those nations in deficit, but they have been short lived, have handled only small amounts of money or have failed to get started.

The first effort was the International Monetary Fund's special oil facility, which was set up shortly after the oil crisis and which rechannelled about £5,000m to 40 countries, including Britain. The oil facility was brought to an end last March. This facility was always seen as a temporary arrangement, providing countries in difficulties with a sort of bridging finance.

As far as official support was concerned, this was a bridge which ended in empty space. For although the IMF is introducing slightly more generous borrowing limits for its members (the quotas as they are technically called) the scale of the increase is small compared to their needs. Nor has that gap been made up by multilateral action in any of the regional groupings either of the industrial or developing worlds.

Both the European Community and the much wider-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development have tried to set up schemes to help members in trouble to get access to the large quantities of surplus funds which the oil producers have received. The EEC was given authority by its members to raise up to $3,000m, either through the international capital markets or through direct borrowing from oil-producing countries.

So far it has borrowed only $1,300m, and there seems to be a striking lack of interest on the part of most EEC members to test the Community's fund-raising much further.

A much more ambitious scheme was conceived by the OECD, which proposed to set up a $25,000m safety net to bail out countries facing financial crisis. This scheme was enthusiastically pushed by the United States Government in 1975, but Congress has so far refused to approve the scheme.

For the industrialized nations, the failure of these multilateral schemes has on the whole been of only limited importance. There has been a willingness by some of the richer countries, notably West Germany and the United States, to provide direct bilateral assistance, as with the $2,000m loan which the Germans provided to Italy against the security of some of that country's gold reserves.

Since any recycling scheme within the West would in any case have to rely on these strong nations for funds, the impact has not been that great.

But for the non-oil developing countries, the problems have been much more severe. They have no access to preferential treatment from governments in the industrialized West, and little chance of borrowing large sums from any international institutions. Borrowing rights from the IMF are determined by how large a quota a country has, which means that the countries with the biggest borrowing rights are the countries which are large industrial nations.

Because of this, the role which official sources play in the financing of the countries' deficits has declined dramatically in recent years. In 1971-73 official sources provided two thirds of the financing requirements of developing countries; now the proportion is little more than a half.

In 1974, total Opec investment in the United States accounted for $12,000m of the total surplus of $55,000m. Little of this went into shares or other long-term investment. The Opec countries were still unsure about how to deal with their new-found wealth and were unwilling to tie it up in investments where too much depended on the skills of a management which they could not control. Instead, they placed funds in bank deposits and in Treasury bills, which together accounted for $9,300m.

These two forms of investment provided almost total liquidity with great security, as did the even larger Eurocurrency markets, which received $22,700m. But during the course of the year there were increasing difficulties in the Euromarkets. The well-publicized failure of a German private bank, Herstatt, drew attention to the fact that even banks could go broke.

This tended to make Opec fund-holders concentrate their attention on a few really big banks which were thought to be above reproach. But the more this happened, the more reluctant these banks became to take too big a share of the oil funds in the Euromarket for fear that the banks would find themselves taking in short-term funds and giving out long-term loans, a certain recipe for disaster.

Because of this, there was a sharp drop in the proportion of funds being fed into the Euromarkets in 1975, down from about 40 per cent of the total to less than 30 per cent. Since the total surplus declined to $31,700m, the drop in the sum invested was even more remarkable, down to $9,100m.

But this fall was less striking than the turnaround in the position of Britain, which desperately sought Opec funds in 1974 and was successful in attracting them. In 1974 the financial skill of the City was able to attract $7,200m, which was heavily invested in government securities, with some investment in equities and property receiving a disproportionate amount of publicity.

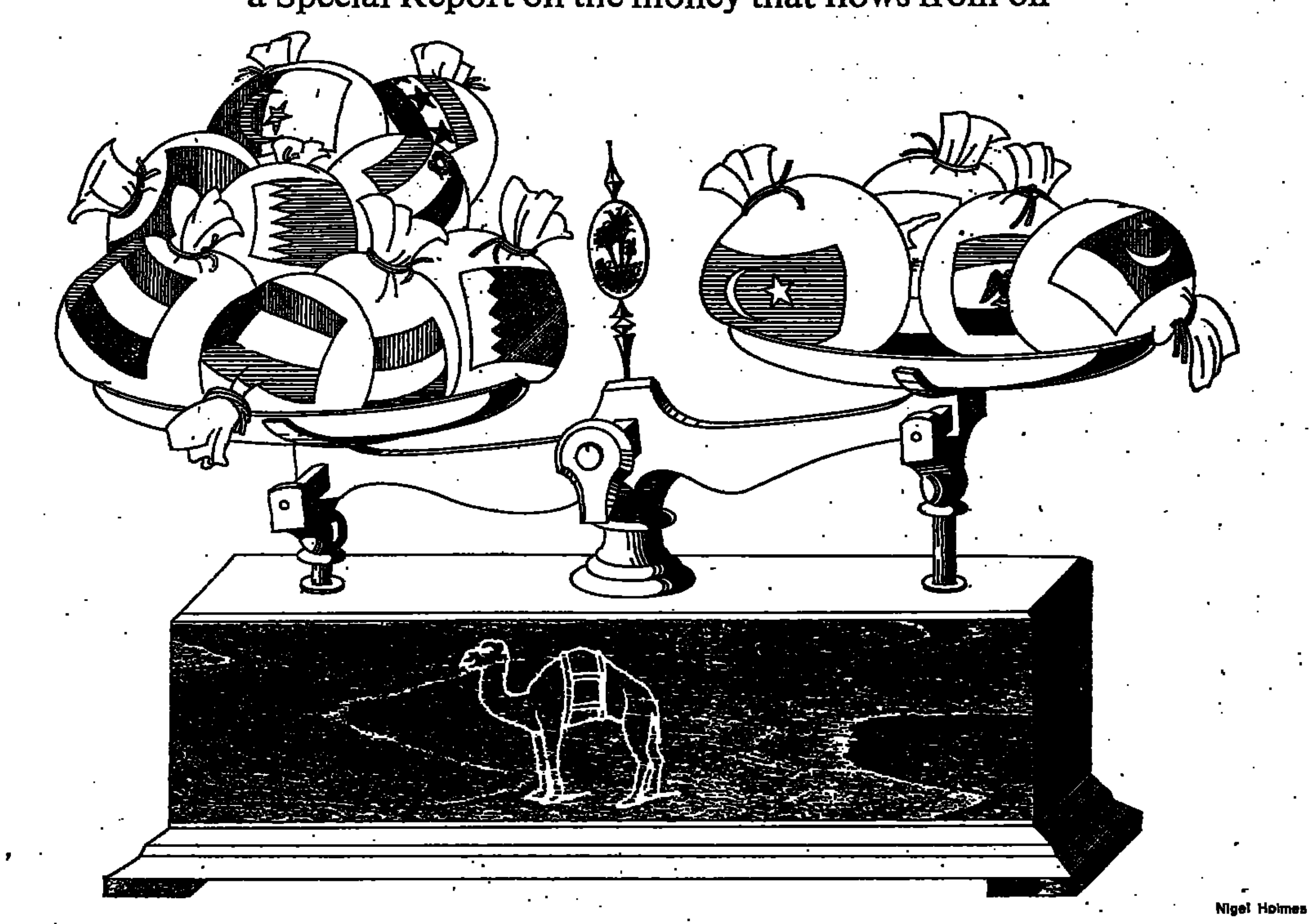
That inflow almost stopped in 1975, and by last year there was a heavy flow of funds out of London as the sterling crisis gathered strength. The success story of 1974 had become the sterling balance problem of 1976.

That money overwhelmingly flowed to the United States, which by the first half of 1977 was attracting 43 per cent of all the Opec area surplus, compared with 22 per cent in 1974. Developing countries, on the other hand, received only 17 per cent of the surplus, though this was a far better aid performance than the West had ever been able to manage.

This flow of funds into American capital markets, combined with the continuing borrowing needs of the developing world, has been the prime force pushing up commercial bank lending from $9,000m in 1973 to an estimated $21,000m in 1976. It seems certain that the banks will have to go on playing a large role in helping developing countries to cope with their payments deficits, which are running at an average of $32,000m a year.

But it also seems inevitable that something will have to be done to make the official efforts for financing more effective. Both private banks and the Governor of the Bank of England are clearly thinking along these lines, and there is likely to be a stepping up of activity soon to give the official mechanisms more funds and more credibility. For the problem of recycling the Opec surplus, though not as acute as was once thought, is turning out to be long lasting.

The author is Economics Correspondent, The Times.



Nigel Holmes

ON OTHER PAGES

Increased imports erode surplus cash

by David Blake

By the end of this year, the Opec countries are likely to have foreign assets with a net value of more than $150,000m. That figure is roughly half the total industrial assets of Britain, and it is increasing at a rate of about $30,000m a year.

In the three and a half years since the oil price rise, the Opec countries have recorded a financial surplus of more than $150,000m. Coping with the distribution of assets on this scale is a difficulty that any country would like to have, but it is a difficulty none the less.

After the first year of huge surplus in 1974, increased imports have eaten away at the financial positions of most Opec members. We are left with just the four producers on the Arabian Peninsula in The Gulf as large surplus earners.

The largest of them by far is Saudi Arabia, which by the end of this year is likely to have half of all Opec assets, with Kuwait being the other main surplus country. Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, although they have huge earnings per capita, are smaller.

A combination of necessities and a desire for security have dominated the investment policies of those three countries. Although the institutional framework within which they operate is rather different, there have been striking similarities in their investment patterns and in the change in the nature of their investments.

The immediate need in 1974 was to find some kind of home for the increased funds which became available to the surplus countries. Both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were well placed to do this, since they had established financial arrangements to deal with the admittedly much smaller surpluses which they had recorded in the past.

At that time, much of the money earned by oil exporting countries in the Middle East was paid in sterling and thus automatically tended to be banked in London.

London had another attraction, as a place in which to do business. During the 1960s it had emerged as the unchallenged centre of the huge international capital market known as the Euromarkets, which began by dealing in dollars but which can now provide almost any currency.

During 1974, nearly three-quarters of all the Opec surplus was invested either in Britain or in the Euromarkets. There were more than institutional and historic choices behind this decision, for the two markets also met the prime requirement of the time. What the Opec countries needed was somewhere to place funds which would be absolutely safe and liquid.

Reluctance to invest in equities

The British market provided something with both those characteristics in the form of British government debt, both short and long term. Since the Government at that time was running a substantial deficit, there was considerable willingness to see the Opec countries invest heavily in the British capital markets. Indeed, the Government at that time encouraged it actively as a way of postponing action to cut down Britain's current account deficit.

During 1974, $7,200m was placed in Britain by the Opec countries, of which half went into government stock, $1,700m was placed on deposit in London banks, $1,200m was made available as loans to Britain and only $700m went into shares or property.

That unwillingness to invest heavily in the equity market reflected a number of important characteristics in the attitudes of the really big surplus nations within Opec. The first was a realization, which is commoner outside Britain than within it, that sensible investment in industrial corporations automatically leads to great involvement in questions about their running. Since the Opec countries lack the numbers of skilled managers who would be required to do that they tended to stick to straight loans which could be more easily watched.

The second reason was, to some extent at least, sensitivity about the attitudes in countries where investment was made. One or two large property purchases in London provoked considerable publicity and in Germany there was a clear backlash against the sale of stakes in German companies to Arab purchasers.

The Kuwaitis, who have always been aware of the potential for resentment caused by the sight of huge riches in a few hands, seem to have been particularly cautious about this. They tend to limit their stake in companies to below the 10 per cent limit at which it must be declared under British law.

The mechanism for Kuwaiti investment in London has long been the Kuwait Investment Office, which channels funds essentially into Britain. But in recent years there has also been a growing role for three institutions in the Eurobond market, the Kuwait Investment Company, the Kuwait Foreign Trading and Contracting Company and the Kuwait International Investment Company. Government policy has been to encourage these institutions to underwrite Eurobond issues, which are then bought up by the Kuwait Finance Ministry.

This policy gives a seemingly greater role to indigenous Kuwaiti institutions than the system adopted by Saudi Arabia, which has always channelled most of its money through the London branches of two American banks, Morgan Guaranty Trust and Chase Manhattan. From these two institutions it is passed either in to government stocks of some kind or on to deposit in other banks.

Apart from Britain, the other great market for readily negotiable commercial paper is New York, and even during 1974 the American market took an even bigger share than did the British. But as time has gone on, this dominance has increased dramatically. In 1974, the United States took 22 per cent of all Opec investment: in 1975 it was 32 per cent, and in the first half of 1976 it was 44 per cent. This increase occurred very largely at the expense of Britain, where there was actually a substantial net disinvestment in 1976 after a standstill in 1975.

Britain curbs role of sterling

The reasons behind the Opec countries' decision are easy to understand, since the value of sterling which they were holding fell dramatically during 1976 as the pound collapsed. Although there is no strong evidence to support the view that the run-down of sterling balances was the main cause of the pound's decline, the Government has now decided to try to arrange an orderly run down of the sterling balances by selling foreign currency bonds if possible, or just by borrowing from other industrial central banks if it is not.

That action effectively closes off Britain as a recipient of official holders of sterling, and will tend to push the surplus countries more firmly into the Eurocurrency and American markets.

Coupled with the geographical change that this implies is a change in the liquidity of the funds which are held. There has been in the past two years a pronounced shift into longer-term investments, substituting long and medium-term bonds for Treasury bills and bank deposits.

In part this is aimed at getting a better rate of interest. But it also reflects the fact that many banks became decidedly uneasy about having huge quantities of money on deposit in a form where it could easily be withdrawn, while the banks themselves had lent it for a significant period of time.

There have also been signs that some of the heavy surplus countries are investing on a big scale in property where there are few management problems. Apart from Libya and Iran, who are seeking technical assistance as much as a profitable investment, there have not, however, been many ventures into industrial equities. Purchases of Krupp and Fiat shares have been the highly publicized exceptions to the Opec investment pattern.

Raising the status of Opec money

The two most likely new trends in the future involve attempts to bring the Opec countries more into the official flow of funds through the world monetary system rather than relying on commercial banks to act as intermediaries.

One idea which is attracting much attention is that Saudi Arabia might be invited to accept some sort of status within the General Arrangements to Borrow set up by the Group of Ten industrial nations within the IMF. The GAB, which provided funds for Britain's IMF loan, is looking short of cash and there is a suggestion that Saudi Arabia might contribute.

The second suggestion is that the surplus countries ought to lend directly to industrial and developing nations which are in balance of payment difficulties. The really big surplus countries have already established very good foreign aid records, but there is a growing feeling that there will have to be more action of the kind which involved Spain borrowing large sums direct from Kuwait recently.

Oil exporters emerge as important source of aid

by Rodney Wilson

One of the most remarkable developments in the past few years in foreign aid has been the emergence of alternative sources of finance outside the industrial countries. The Middle East oil-exporting states are the main suppliers of this new finance and collectively they represent more important aid donors than any single source within the western industrial world, apart from the United States.

In the aftermath of the recent recession, assistance from the West to less-developed countries has been accorded an even lower priority than before, as the industrial countries have struggled to put their own economies in order. As a consequence, aid disbursements are now below 0.5 per cent of gross national product in the case of most western nations, including Britain. That is less than half the target set by the committee under the late Lester Pearson which provided the most comprehensive report on this whole question more than seven years ago.

In contrast aid disbursements from the oil surplus states account for up to 5 per cent of gnp, an enormous proportion compared with the western figure.

It would be naive, however, to believe that the apparent generosity of the Middle East oil producers springs from primarily altruistic motives, or any genuine idealistic commitment to improving economic conditions in the Third World generally.

Solidarity between the peoples of the Arab oil-exporting countries and their poor Arab neighbours, for instance, is minimal, and there are sharp conflicts of economic interest despite all the talk of closer cooperation, and even regional integration.

The large aid flows must instead be explained in political terms, as the history of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Integration, the longest established aid agency in the Middle East, shows. The fund was set up in 1961 to win friends for Kuwait in the Arab world, and in particular to counter Iraqi territorial claims on its highly valuable oil deposits.

That political objective was achieved at fairly modest cost through the fund, with Kuwait becoming a full member of the Arab League, recognized by everyone as a completely independent sovereign state.

All this does not stop the Kuwait fund from adopting proper techniques for project appraisal, or undermine the professional competence of the staff employed by the fund. Indeed it is important that projects backed by the fund should be successful, otherwise the recipient countries would merely find themselves in serious debt, which would be politically counter-productive.

Aid recipients soon become ungrateful towards donor states if projects do not work out, or the loans are used for purposes which bring little economic return, such as purchase of military equipment. Egypt's strained relations with the Soviet Union over the question of its debts provide ample illustration of this.

No similar strains exist between Kuwait and Egypt, even though the Kuwait fund has channelled more finance into Egypt than any other single country. Loan repayments have gone smoothly, which is a tribute to the care the Kuwait fund officials took over project selection, in what is probably the most difficult country in the entire Middle East to implement successful schemes.

The Arab conflict with Israel is another factor explaining the growth in Arab aid flows. It generates two types of aid. First, there is assistance to the so-called front line states in the conflict, such as Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

An example of this was the $1,000m pledged in 1975 by the governments of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar for the establishment of an Egyptian armaments industry, although little has been heard of this since. Second, the conflict with Israel affects the pattern of development assistance with respect to non-Arab countries in the Third World.

No doubt subtle influences are at work

During the past two years there has been a growing amount of aid from the Arab oil-exporting countries to the nations of sub-Saharan Africa in particular, and although the Arabs do not apply direct pressure on these states' voting intentions in the United Nations or elsewhere, there is no doubt that more subtle influences are at work.

Last year more than £150m, representing 47 per cent of the total lending of the Kuwait fund, went to non-Arab states.

In addition to this lateral lending through the Kuwait fund, there are also multinational Arab institutions specializing in lending outside the Middle East. These include the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, with an authorized capital of £140m, the Arab Fund for Africa, with capital resources of £120m, and the more specialized Arab Fund for Technical Assistance in Africa.

A further motive for lending to the Third World by both Arab and non-Arab oil-exporting states is to alleviate some of the hardship caused by the petrol price rises of 1974, which hurt the developing countries much more than the economies of the industrialized West. The Shah of Iran has probably had this in mind, especially with his loans to Pakistan and Egypt. In the case of the latter most of the funds have gone to help schemes in the Suez Canal area in which Iran has admittedly a vested interest from the point of view of its own maritime trade.

The trade considerations also apply to the large loan promised by the Shah to Turkey for road improvements in the eastern part of the country.

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But while the resumption of foreign banking operations at subsidiary, branch or representative office level is already encouragingly advanced, the underlying question of Beirut's long-term future remains. Some banks which ran the whole of their Middle Eastern (and in one or two cases African) businesses from Beirut have moved their headquarters elsewhere.

For some the move was only ever viewed as temporary. Those who chose Athens or Cairo seem unlikely to make either city a permanent alternative to Beirut since conditions are just not good enough. But others have seen their move in a more permanent light.

First Chicago, for instance, has moved its Middle East and Africa headquarters back to London. Inevitably this means longer, more tedious and more expensive air travel. But this disadvantage is matched by the benefits of more advanced telecommunications and all the trappings—the services of international lawyers and accountants and close proximity to other banks for example—that go along with London's *position* at the heart of the international banking markets. Air travel to Africa is, in any case, generally much easier from London than from Beirut.

Increasingly, international bankers are finding that it matters less and less for the conduct of their business where their bank is located because communications are so rapid and the worldwide markets have become so interlinked. Much of the money that formerly went into Beirut, for instance, flows with equal ease now into Switzerland, which, in turn, acts as an entrepôt, channelling the money on for investment elsewhere.

For those banks which, unlike First Chicago, do not have to worry about African operations, however, Beirut seems likely still to have a powerful pull. If the facilities necessary to international banking are made available again fairly quickly many could well move their regional offices back in, especially those which have hitherto been active in the Lebanese economy. The problem is that telephone, telex and accounting services are poor or non-existent and much will depend on how rapidly these can be supplied. A secure political solution may also be a prerequisite.

Otherwise, Lebanon will continue to retain those advantages which made it the financial centre of the Middle East in the past. Its geography and its climate are favourable. It is a fair bet, too, that political stability would see a return of the entertainment and night life which in the past attracted funds and their managers from all over the Middle East.

More fundamentally, Lebanon still has its bank secrecy laws, private numbered accounts on the Swiss pattern and so on. Non-resident deposits in foreign exchange can also be taken in free of charge by Beirut banks.

But those who are looking at Beirut in terms of whether it will again become the undisputed financial centre for the Middle East are probably asking the wrong question. Much has happened since Beirut closed down. The quality of advice given to ultimate holders of funds throughout the Middle East who previously leaned heavily upon Beirut has improved immeasurably in the past two years. Horizons have broadened and there is a much greater awareness of the investment opportunities available around the world.

At the same time other countries have been making undisguised attempts to take on the mantle formerly worn by Beirut. There has been a multiplication of financial centres as banks have been increasingly attracted to places never previously contemplated.

London as the centre of the Eurodollar deposit market and, in practice, the place where much international loan business is transacted, remains as much the hub as ever it was. But it is surrounded by an ever-growing number of inter-connected satellites, each playing an important role in servicing its own region.

In this way the traditional intermediating function of banks is being extended so as to cope successfully with the task of channelling vast new financial surpluses to wherever they may be needed around the world. Inevitably the oil price revolution has meant that this process has focused primarily upon the Middle East, and even a revived Beirut will find itself only one among a chain of important financial centres.

Bahrain, perhaps, has taken this process the farthest, although the style of operation is not really comparable to that of Beirut. Its objective has been to attract international banks solely to do offshore business. Called OBUs (Offshore Banking Units) these banks pay a licence fee of $25,000, but are otherwise encouraged by a liberal regulatory climate on such matters as taxation and reserves.

Communications are excellent, the bureaucracy is relatively unobtrusive, the geographical location is central, and Bahrain's shortage of oil wealth makes it a politically attractive centre for the deposits of some Gulf Arabs who might be reluctant to put them with their other, wealthier neighbours.

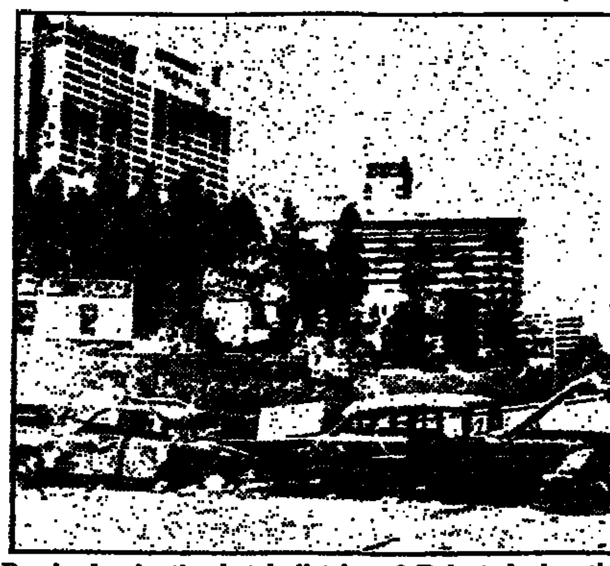
Despite a dire shortage of accommodation — which seems at present to be the main constraint upon the issuing of yet more licences —banks have rushed to take up whatever licences have been available. Foreign exchange brokers have followed. The result has been that, within only 18 months, Bahrain has become a highly active international banking market with deposits at the end of last year which will almost certainly prove to be well in excess of $5,000m.

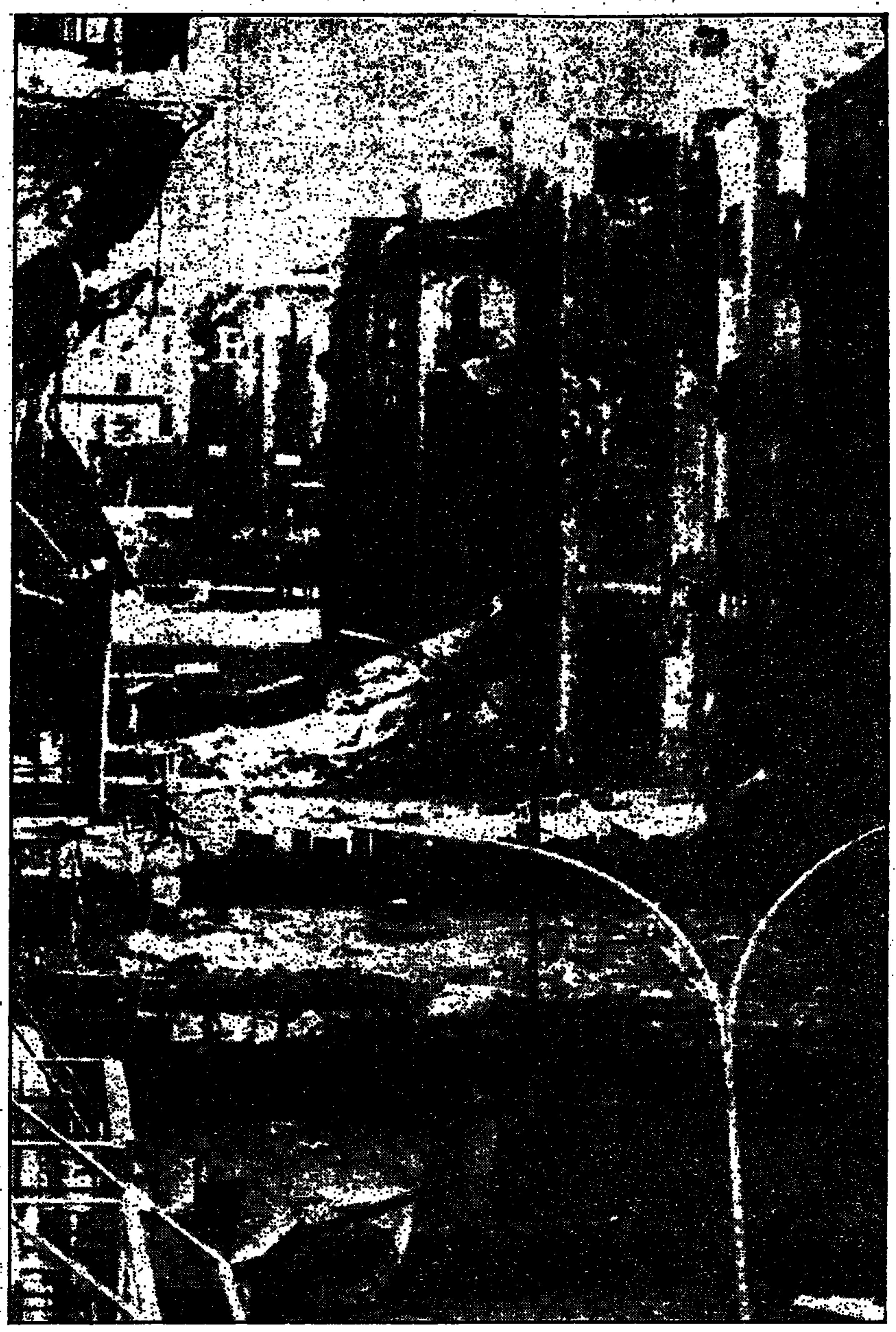
International banks have been moving into other Gulf cities as well, but no other centre has made quite the concerted move of Bahrain to take advantage of the banking service requirements arising as a result of the vast new accretions of Middle Eastern wealth.

Egypt has been creating a much more favourable climate for foreign banks, readmitting them under the 1974 "open door" policy. Two types of licences are obtainable, one to engage purely in offshore business and the other, in partnership with local banks, to participate in the domestic markets.

But although foreign banks have been taking up licences, the scale of their activity has not been great. Communications remain wretched, red tape is formidable, the labour laws are a real deterrent and, in the past, there have been serious obstacles to the freedom of currency flows.

The author is Deputy Financial Editor, The Times.





Barricades in the hotel district of Beirut during the recently ended civil war. Right: devastation shows the extent of the reconstruction problem facing the former business capital of the Middle East.

City skills find role in ambitious financial plans

by Ronald Pullen

It has taken the City of London more than 200 years to establish its position as the leading international financial centre. Paris, Wall Street, Singapore and the other world centres have all reached their particular stations in rather less time, though none can offer the same breadth and depth of financial services that London can.

Now we see the countries of the Middle East—faced not simply with a wish to play some part themselves in recycling their oil surpluses but the need to build up their own financial structure to service ambitious industrialization plans—endeavouring to propel themselves into the front rank in just a few years. If they are to have any chance of success, they will have to lean heavily on importing foreign financial skills. The City of London has not been slow to recognize this even if it has not blown its own trumpet quite as loudly as the construction industry, for instance.

It would, however, be misleading to suggest that the City was a complete stranger to the Middle East. Merchant banks such as Hambros, Morgan Grenfell and Kleinwort Benson have been quietly developing their Middle East business for the past 15 years. With close links forged in the old days of empire and the sterling area, Middle East countries have tended to turn first of all to London for advice and assistance in setting up their own fledgling financial institutions.

It was an Englishman, for instance, who helped to set up the Bahrain Monetary Authority whose move into offshore banking has been arguably the most exciting financial development in the Middle East recently. Again it was an ex-London Stock Exchange official to whom Kuwait turned six months ago when it decided it wanted to expand its tiny bourse. Until two years ago Abu Dhabi's portfolio investments were managed by Williams and Glyn's, while Barings still help to advise the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority investment side.

More recently insurance companies have greatly expanded their operations in the area, money brokers such as R. P. Martin and Marshalls have set up shop in Bahrain; only the major clearing banks appear to have been slower off the mark and then perhaps because banking regulations in the Middle East, especially in relation to retail banking, have tended to circumscribe their spheres of operations.

And news at the end of last year that Barclays had been put on the Arab blacklist will have stunted its emerging ambitions to become a force in the area.

Nevertheless, the Middle East is not altogether the lure it often appears to outsiders. The existence of a large pool of money, which helped in particular to explain the rise of Zürich, for instance, as a financial centre, may be a necessary condition for success but it is hardly a sufficient condition and in many respects the Middle East lacks some of the critical requisites of a financial centre.

Communications in particular are poor except in Bahrain, availability of skilled manpower in the shape of lawyers and accountants is limited, and the Middle East working week runs only from Sunday to Thursday (or Wednesday afternoon when dealing with New York). Then, again, London groups considering setting up in the Middle East have to decide precisely where the base of their operations should be.

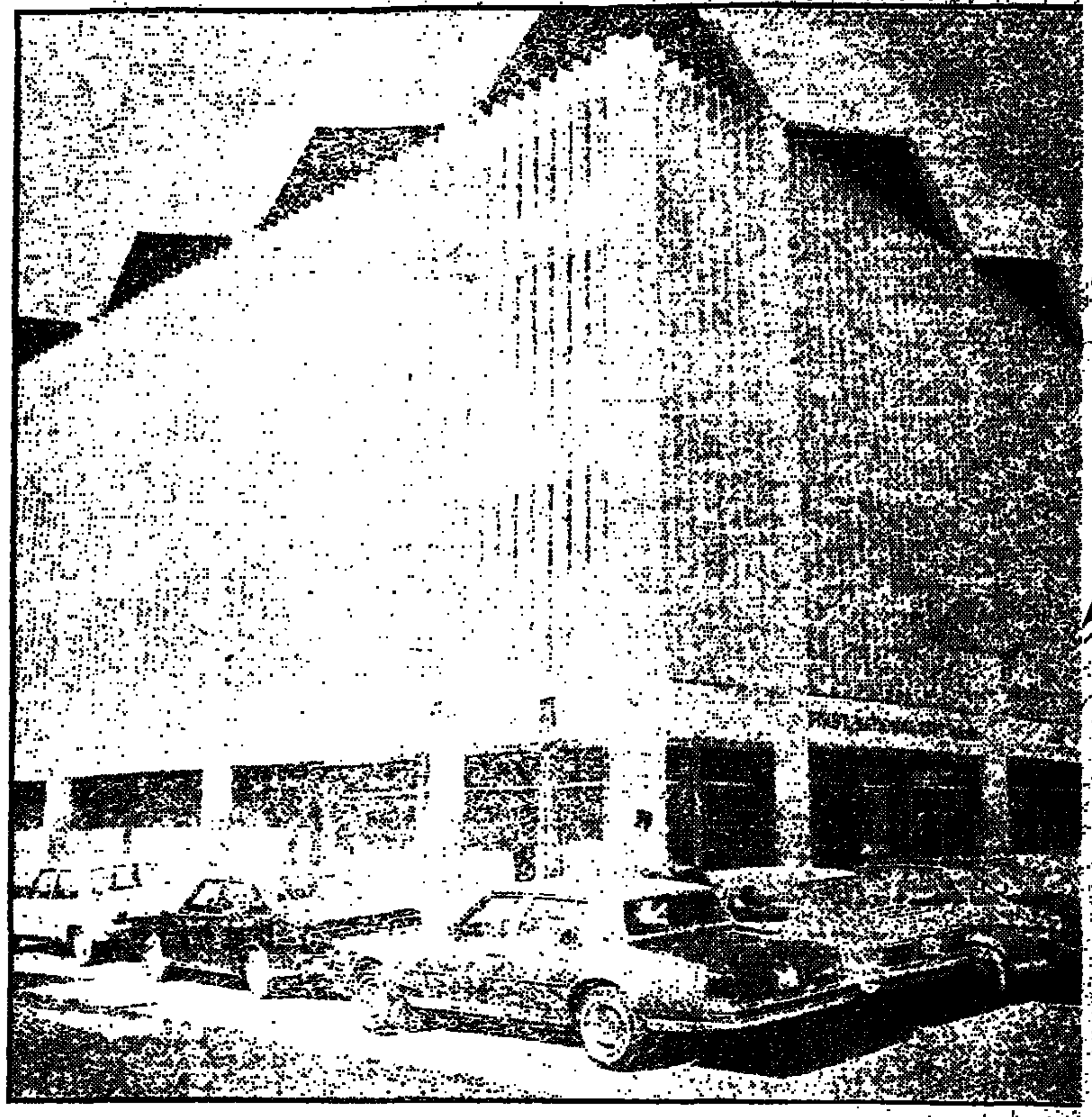
Priorities tend to be different

Middle East laws and customs also pose added difficulties for would-be providers of financial services. Muslim law, for instance, frowns upon charging interest, there are those countries which already operate state insurance monopolies while in most states, Kuwait particularly, local partners with 51 per cent controlling interests are the preferred route for importing foreign financial skills.

Equally important, though the Middle East is far from a homogeneous area when it comes to the sort of financial services required, their priorities broadly speaking tend to be rather different from other financial centres. At this stage in their development there is less demand for the sort of complicated project financing that merchant banks for example specialize in. With Arabs still inherently conservative in their investment patterns, funding of loan portfolios long term is still in its infancy though there has been a pronounced shift in the past year or so away from London and New York short-term deposits towards the Eurocurrency markets.

Commercial bank lending, too, is little developed and where it is, is usually in the hands of locally-registered banks. Foreign exchange dealing, however, is fairly near the top of their requirements because of the need to finance an ever-growing volume of imports and the wish to develop, among other things, a forward market in as many Gulf currencies as possible.

To date it has been left to the insurance groups really to stamp their identity on the region chiefly through partnership with local groups. Last year, for example, the Prudential Assurance took a 25 per cent stake in Union Insurance of Dubai which was established in 1974 by local interests in association with British reinsurance brokers Maynard Reeve and Wallace.



The First National City Bank offices in Bahrain.

The high level of British construction projects in the Middle East has probably given the insurance industry the main stimulus to develop. Along with the normal run of insurance risks—equipment insurance, public liability and employers' liability—the London insurance market's unrivalled experience in risk assessment really comes into its own in the very different conditions prevailing in the Middle East, which has ensured that even when business has been written locally much of it has flowed back to London.

Construction companies in particular have been especially keen to get as much insurance cover as possible to protect themselves against the penal clauses in Middle East contracts against late completion, while chronic port congestion all along The Gulf has boosted import insurance business.

Marine insurance, too, has grown after the Opec countries' decision to operate their own tanker fleet and the Arab world's fast-developing ambitions in other areas of the shipping market.

Laws limit size of loans

Despite its financial ambitions, the Middle East has so far tended to discourage the sort of operations the large international banking groups go in for. In Saudi Arabia, oil revenues are substantial enough to preclude opportunities for medium-term project finance and when it is needed the Government, in the shape of the Saudi Industrial Development Fund, is on hand to provide it at 2 per cent interest.

Further, Saudi banking laws inhibit the size of loans that can be made while the fear of the Saudi authorities of seeing the rial play a role in the international economy has slowed down the development of an active foreign exchange market.

In contrast Kuwait has a fairly well-developed banking system, although local laws allow only Kuwait-owned concerns to operate as commercial banks. Yet even if much of the banking business in Kuwait is closely involved in financing trade, Kuwaiti names have recently started to appear leading and comanaging Eurodollar issues; and the number of expatriate advisers, many British, at all levels of the banking system from the Central Bank down is testament to the opportunities available.

It has, however, been left to Bahrain to add another dimension to Middle East banking with the establishment of its offshore banking units whose tax advantages have attracted more than 30 takers, including three British clearing banks—Midland, National Westminster and Lloyds.

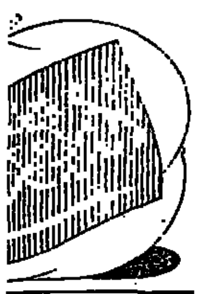
The growing strength of Bahrain as an international money market is further emphasized by the decision of three money brokers to establish a base of operations there—R. P. Martin, Marshalls and Sarabex.

There is little doubt that in time the Middle East would like to attract more of the bulk chemical and oil markets located in Europe to reinforce its strategy of moving downstream from oil, in that London's commodity dealing skill would be especially welcome.

Opportunities for financial services in the Middle East, therefore, are plentiful, especially for British groups which not only have the reputation of the City of London to fall back on but have a head start from old-established connexions. By the same token it is clear that they will need to move at the pace and in the direction the Middle East wants them to go.

Long-term investment discouraged by stringent laws

ARABIA



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oil revenue that bia will earn be- s decision to flood ensive Opec pro- the market is the the domestic eco- s.

audi development ress quite happily f about 3,500,000 oil a day, Shaikh ki Yamani, the Minister, has in- that production h 11,800,000 bar- y this year and ly be expanded to The only possible of this gift to the ners, apart from g markets, is that goods imported Arabia may cost That will at least ported inflation. generated within is a more serious owever. According ommerce ministry port congestion verloading of in- port facilities add er cent to the cost ported goods. If nargins are about er cent, the aver- of many essential items in Saudi Arabia is more than 50 per cent higher than the whole-sale price in the country of origin.

The worst inflation has come in the housing and services sectors. Rents of £20,000 a year for a villa in Jiddah or Riyadh are not uncommon. Hotel and taxi charges are correspondingly high, with £35 to £50 a night being paid for a room acceptable to a foreign businessman, and taxis beginning to cost nearly £2 just to go a few blocks. Hiring a car and driver for the day costs more than £30.

Such ridiculous prices are produced mainly because too much money is chasing too few goods and services, but artificial shortages, especially those created by speculative landlords, have clearly contributed. The Government began to step in last year to limit retail margins and hotel prices, and to tie down rent increases.

A most hopeful piece of legislation, banning the housing of big foreign construction teams from within city limits, is to come into force on March 21. Under it, work-forces of more than 50 will have to be housed in camps outside towns. Many foreign companies have wisely done this already.

Because of the rich rewards for local businessmen in the services and housing sectors, that is where most private enterprise has concentrated since the launching of the $142,000m second development plan in March, 1975. The Government sector is undertaking most of the big spending on ports, power and desalination plants, airfields, hospitals and the like.

Until the communications and services are provided and there is an industrial base on which allied private industries can develop, the limit of private sector ambition is likely to be building-block manufacture or, at the most, vehicle assembly.

Long-term private investment is scarce and most of the abundant cash in the hands of private individuals is being absorbed into real estate. From the point of view of curbing inflation there is some virtue in the surge of property speculation, since it does drain some of the liquidity from the economy. But pundits are already predicting a sudden collapse of the property market.

The banking system in Saudi Arabia and the stringent capitalization laws governing the largely undercapitalized banks are doing little to channel funds into long-term investment. Most of the funds are on current or short-term deposit account, cramping the banks' style for long-term lending.

Import financing accounts for most banking activity while the lucrative guaranteeing of bonds for multi-million dollar government contracts is usually beyond the local banks' scope and is taken outside the country to Europe, Japan or the United States.

Local banks mostly have to content themselves with a small fee for giving the business to an approved foreign bank. Many of the managers of the foreign banks in Jiddah are unhappy that no offshore facilities have been encouraged, as in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

The presence of only eight foreign and no offshore banks is a direct result of the conservative policy of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) which acts as the central bank. SAMA is acutely conscious of the imbalance caused by its ever-mounting international reserves, estimated last October at $26,656m. It is reluctant to allow offshore facilities since it would like to see all financing activity concentrating on development within the country.

However, SAMA officials deny that its policy is totally inward-looking. Two years ago there were 12 commercial banks operating in Saudi Arabia, of which only two, the National Commercial Bank and the Riyad Bank, were 100 per cent Saudi, the rest being 100 per cent foreign owned.

In July, 1975, the first of the foreign banks, the National Bank of Pakistan, became 60 per cent Saudi owned, changing its name to the Bank al-Jazira, but with the NBP retaining a 40 per cent share and the overall management contract. Last December the Algemene Bank Nederland retained a 40 per cent share and an eight-year management contract when a government decree changed its name to al-Bank al-Saudi al-Hollandi prescribing 60 per cent Saudi ownership.

This disadvantage to the foreign bank of being "Saudi-ized" is purely one of profits: the advantage is the opportunity enjoyed by the new Saudi bank to open more branches in the country while retaining a useful relationship with its original foreign parent. Foreign banks are generally confined to Jiddah, although Citibank has a branch in Riyadh and the Algemene Bank and the British Bank of the Middle East have branches in Dammam and elsewhere.

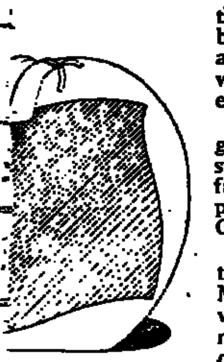
Of the eight foreign banks remaining in Saudi Arabia, at least one, the British Bank of the Middle East, is talking about Saudiization; but according to SAMA sources, Saudiization is likely to stop when the ratio of Saudi banks to foreign ones is more even.

The 12 banks on their own could not cope with the enormous growth of the Saudi economy without the parallel services offered by the money changers and finance companies. The money changers enjoy almost as much business as the banks, without being hampered by the capitalization requirements of the banking law. Because of their existence outside SAMA's jurisdiction it is difficult to get a picture of the banking scene simply from an account of transactions through SAMA and the commercial banks.

The ratio between bank clearings and money supply is only 20 per cent in Saudi Arabia, compared with 140 per cent in the United States and 100 per cent in West Germany. So while the Saudi banking sector seems characterized by the conservative policies of SAMA, there are many developments beyond its control. Commercial bankers themselves have no clear view of where the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency is taking Saudi banking.

The author is on the staff of the Middle East Economic Digest.

Largest share of revenue earmarked for heavy industry



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officially chosen dustry—steel and icals—as its econo- stone after oil and arked the largest il revenue of about year for spending ial plant. The oil hich bring in the e now pegged at a just under half a arrels a day and the two operating companies between which it is divided almost equally have been wholly state-owned since the end of last year.

Huge resources of natural gas, underpin the industrial strategy, but Qatar's strategy faces the same manpower problem faced by other Opec states.

Qatar's population is less than a quarter of a million. Most are expatriates, whether Europeans in technical and managerial posts, or Iranians, Indians and Pakistanis in less skilled roles. The small barren peninsula cannot naturally feed a population of even this size and many foods and most other consumer requirements are imported at soaring prices.

Oil has been exported since 1949, and the half million barrels a day ceiling on offtake is a preservation measure. The Government and Qatar Petroleum, the onshore producer, have reached agreement on the state's takeover of the remaining 40 per cent foreign stake which had been held by BP, Shell, Compagnie Française des Pétroles and a number of American interests, under the terms of which Qatar Petroleum will continue to operate the Dukhan fields for a service fee of 15 cents a barrel. Final agreement between the Government and Shell Company of Qatar, the offshore producer, was announced last week.

Oil exports of about half a million barrels a day has generated an income of roughly $2,000m or slightly less in the past two years, of which half has been earmarked for capital expenditure, mostly on heavy industry in 1976. At the industrial township of Umm Said a large fertilizer complex has been in operation since 1973, producing 1,900 tonnes a day of ammonia and urea from natural gas from the offshore fields. Financed originally by a number of British banks led by Hambros, the fertilizer plant is undergoing extensions which will double its capacity.

Early in 1975 the second gas-fuelled plant at Umm Said was opened using petroleum associated gases from the onshore fields. Under a long-term contract Japan buys the natural gas liquid plant's total output of 400,000 tonnes a year of propane and 250,000 tonnes a year of butane, but because of a dispute between the oil company and the Government in 1975, oil output and thus gas flow fell by half for a spell, illustrating the perils of oil and gas-based diversification. A third petrochemical venture using ethane produced at the existing NGL plant is going ahead however as part of a joint venture between the state-owned Qatar General Petroleum Corporation and Charbonnages de France which embraces both the Umm Said polydethylene plant and a twin complex in France which will receive Qatari finance. Both are to open early next year.

Shell Gas International and QGPC came together in 1974 to form the Qatar Gas Company with 30 per cent and 70 per cent shareholdings respectively to open a second NGL plant using petroleum associated gases from the offshore fields and subsequently handling plant on the north coast of the peninsula to harness the same fields' reserves of non-associated gas. Because of the takeover dispute, however, it is not immediately clear what the fate of these projects will be. The Government is reported to have asked Shell to give up its 30 per cent of Qatar Gas.

The Qatar General Petroleum Corporation was also created in 1974 to run the Government's stake in a range of projects at home and abroad on commercial lines independently of the Ministry of Finance and Petroleum. It has found since then that its main task is to train Qataris for oil industry and other technical posts. Outside oil and gas, the main industrial venture of the day is the 400,000 tonnes a year iron and steel plant under construction by Japanese concerns at Umm Said Plans for an aluminium smelter and large export refinery have been deferred because of the lack of trained manpower.

There are no rivers or resources of surface water of any kind on the peninsula. Qatar has never recorded an average annual rainfall of more than 80mm, in comparison with 300mm in an average year in the Sahara Desert. Whereas fishing has always been an important local industry and considerable quantities of shrimps have been exported to Japan and the United States from the well-equipped national fishing company, agriculture as a livelihood supported only a tiny proportion of the population before the 1960s.

With a more complicated life style, better dietary habits, rising purchasing power and the influence of expatriates, however, it became feasible to pump cash into agriculture in the form of free services, seeds, insecticides, fertilizers and advice. As a result, the number of individuals employed solely in farming has trebled since 1960 to reach 10 per cent of the population. Vegetable production was 200 tons in 1960 and 20,000 tons in 1970.

Expenditure on social services and public utilities, including low-cost houses, education, health, and electricity but excluding development such as roads and communications amounted to rather more than 12,600m rials in 1976 or $3,000m, which if the population is 200,000 works out at roughly $1,500 a head.

Like its neighbours Qatar disburses aid to foreign governments but on an ad hoc basis rather than through an established fund, except in the case of Egypt where Qatar is committed to a number of inter-Arab schemes.

Ploughing oil revenue into heavy industry and petrochemicals, producing exportable products, can succeed and in the case of the existing factories is succeeding as long as neither the supply of raw materials which fuels those industries nor the supply of foreign workers to run them becomes a political issue.

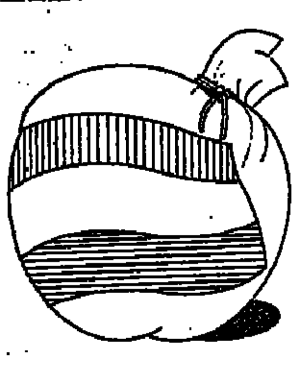
The training of skilled Qatari manpower will in time alleviate the situation and is taken very seriously but for the moment the presence of large numbers of foreigners in the peninsula is not causing resentment or political upsets.

Until independence in 1971 the banking community consisted only of the Arab Bank and the three British concerns traditionally represented in the region, the British Bank of the Middle East, Grindlays and Chartered. Their main activity was financing import trade. Today the total is 12 banks, three of them British, three Arab and one each from the United States, France, Iran and Pakistan. Trade financing continues side by side with lending to property and land development. Most credit is still advanced in the form of simple overdrafts to individuals.

More than a third of the total banking business has been captured by the Qatar National Bank, which enjoys strong government encouragement and acts in some ways, particularly in interbank transactions and foreign exchange, as the central bank.

The Qatar Monetary Agency concerns itself with the issuing of currency and the fixing of maximum lending rates, at present 9.5 per cent. In the latter half of 1976 the Qatari rial joined the Bahrain dinar and the United Arab Emirates dirham in the travellers' reciprocity scheme under which any of the three currencies can be used in any of the states up to maximum of $125 at a time.

Shah feels pinch from loss of exports



IRAN

by Nicholas Cumming-Bruce

Iran needs a quick agreement to end Opec's two-tier oil pricing. Many Opec members have suffered a substantial loss of oil exports since oil prices rose on January 1. None is feeling the financial effects as acutely as Iran. By the end of January, the National Iranian Oil Company was reporting losses from lower exports of \$6m daily and the Shah was raising the spectre of a \$7,000m deficit over the year if demand for Iranian crude did not revive. It almost certainly will, but by how much, and when? The difficulty of selling Iranian crude will be prolonged long after consumer stocks have ceased to depress demand if two-tier prices are maintained and Saudi Arabia increases its production.

Iran did not show much concern last year for the possible effects of consumer stockpiling in anticipation of the price rise. When interviewed in early December, Abdol Majid Majidi, director of the Plan and Budget Organization, did not envisage output falling below about five million barrels a day, and NIOC officials were talking complacently of selling more than a million barrels a day direct.

It came as something of a shock, therefore, when sales through the Consortium (Iran's main outlet) during the first nine days of January fell 35 per cent over the same period of December to 3,558,000 barrels a day and direct sales by 51 per cent to 651,000 barrels. Consortium production for the whole of January averaged 4,600,000 barrels, 24 per cent fewer than in December, but still up on January 1976.

The first nine days' results were enough, however, to prompt a major reappraisal of the expenditure planned under the 1977-78 budget. All new spending projects were to be shelved, Mr Majidi announced on January 11, to allow completion of those already started. All foreign aid programmes were to be either cut back or eliminated. There was even a rather far-fetched suggestion that the sixth five-year plan (1978-83), still in the early stages of preparation, would have to be revised.

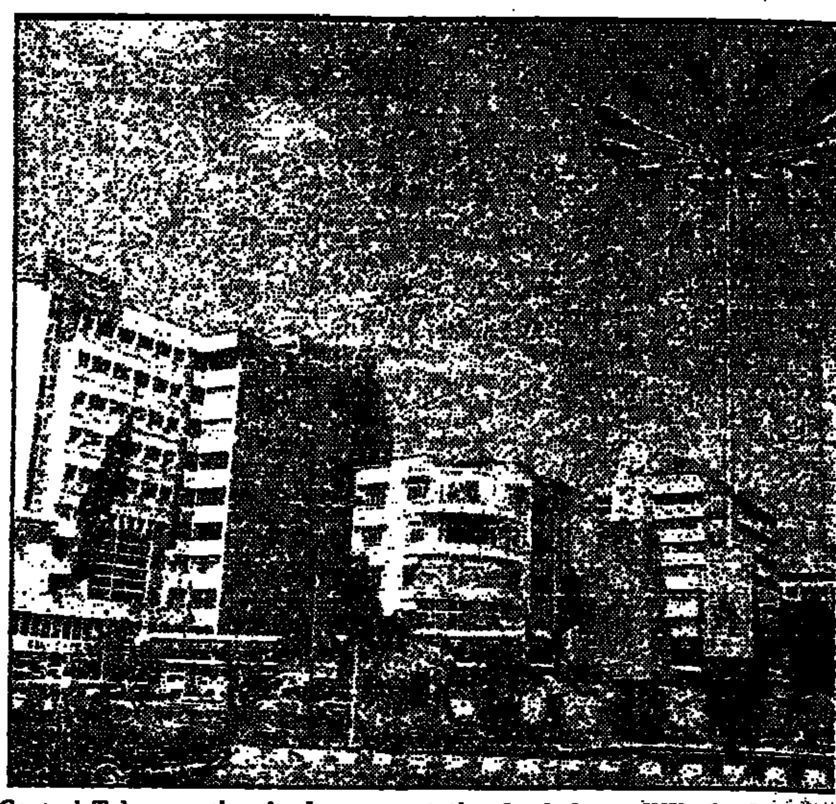
But the loss of oil exports has serious implications for Iran's balance of payments since oil revenues still account for about 85 per cent of foreign exchange receipts. The balance of payments was already a source of some concern having moved into a \$1,000m deficit during 1975-76 from a surplus of \$5,000m the previous year.

No wonder, therefore, that Iran should try to mitigate the impact of dwindling oil exports by trying to put a share of its trade on an oil barter basis. Unfortunately, the proposition has been greeted less than enthusiastically by Iran's major trading partners and offers little prospect of relief in the short term.

Iran's predicament highlights how far the Government still has to go in ironing out the confusion which arose when infrastructural weaknesses combined with shortages of skills, materials and stagnating oil revenues to undermine the big development push launched in 1974. Oil income during 1976 reached an estimated \$21,000m-\$22,000m which compares with under \$5,000m received from the same source in 1973. Even so, there was insufficient cash to cover the projects on which the Government had embarked in the intervening years.

Lengthy delays in payments to contractors by the Government became one of the major hazards of doing business in Iran as the authorities worked out their spending priorities. There were also difficulties in obtaining construction materials and other industrial commodities, inflation, price controls and port congestion. Iran emerged with a much enhanced reputation for being one of the most difficult business environments.

To those difficulties was added the uncertainty generated by the Shah's 1975 decree that 49 per cent of all private companies were to be sold to workers and the general public. That has also meant lower ceilings on foreign shareholdings in joint ventures. The programme has acted as something of a deterrent to foreign investment but it has also raised concern in the Iranian private sector about the scope it provides for government intervention.



Central Teheran: the city has a reputation for being a difficult place in to do business.

The \$27,700m slated for expenditure under the budget for 1976-77 is sufficient to maintain a high level of economic activity.

The performance of productive sectors has, however, been uneven. Massive resources are still being mobilized for industry, which benefited from investment totalling 235,000m rials (\$3,300m) during 1975-76 and growth is correspondingly high. It is likely to average out at some 19 per cent a year for the fifth plan.

But while labour costs are soaring, efficiency is low, and Iranian industry still has to demonstrate that it can compete abroad without heavy government backing.

Agriculture has fared less well. Investment is lagging well behind targets and the official figures of 6.8 per cent real growth are viewed sceptically. The Government with one hand offers generous credits to some areas of farming but with the other pursues price control policies that make profit hard to come by and discourage investment. In the meantime, the need for more and increasingly costly food is rising fast.

Slower overall economic growth has affected the financial community less than other areas of the economy. As oil-financed government support for the private sector diminishes, demand for alternative financial support is growing apace.

Capital market development is one possible alternative, but as yet the Teheran Stock Exchange remains a somewhat limited operation where most of the trading is in bonds and bank shares. The opportunities for banking developments are considerable, but it is seriously constrained by lack of skills and not helped by the atmosphere of competition rather than cooperation between banks.

The Central Bank has in the past 12 to 18 months been taking firm measures to try to contain the growth in money supply and take some of the excess liquidity out of the economy, including tighter restrictions on credit. Access to foreign borrowing has been effectively denied most commercial banks by doubling to 30 per cent the legal deposit requirement. Some 45 per cent of non-sight deposits have to be invested in government bonds and the minimum reserve requirement for increases in these deposits stands at 15 per cent.

Rediscount rates have since mid-November stood at 9 per cent across the board. However, supply of commercial and specialized banks' credit to the private sector during the first half of this Iranian year was up some 44 per cent over the same period of 1975 1,313,400m rials.

The increase specialized banks' this credit from 25 last year to more per cent in the first this is a clear sign Central Bank co lies. The commerci have lacked inte undertaking or the undertake, much m long-term financi development purpo ferring business of quick return on cap

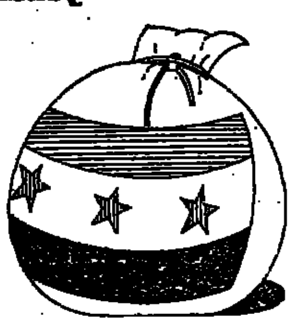
The specialized ba therefore enjoyed a of privileges, no exemption from t deposit required on borrowing. It is bo in the loans raised by the Industrial and Development Bank the Industrial Cred and the Agricultural opment Bank.

If there is still s demand for credit the banks busy witho trying, they have a l to go before they ar to take on the directly financi development. That long-term challenge the country's financi tutions. It is an e part of the task of Iran off its depend oil revenues, and the biggest economic c facing it.

The author is on the the Middle East E Digest.

Land of mystery and prosperity

IRAQ



by Patrick Cockburn

With oil production estimated at 104 million tonnes last year Iraq is one of only two Arab states—the other is Algeria—which has both substantial oil revenues and a fairly large population. Whatever the immediate difficulties, this makes its economic prospects extremely favourable.

Proved oil reserves stand at 36,000 million barrels but the United States State Department estimates reserves at a possible 80,000 million barrels—almost triple the proved American reserves. There are also large areas of potentially cultivable land which can be made productive by irrigation schemes. Given these resources the 11,500,000 Iraqis live in an under-populated country.

For all this Iraq remains the least known of Middle Eastern states. It has an air of mystery for its Arab neighbours as well as for the West. Its history since 1958, when the monarchy was destroyed, has been both violent and complex, but today it looks increasingly stable. Unlike Syria and Egypt this does not mean that the amalgam of socialism and Arab nationalism advocated by the Arab Baath Socialist Party, in power since 1968, has been watered down.

An attitude of unrelenting hostility towards any rapprochement with Israel is maintained. And if the country is diplomatically isolated from other Arab states—an isolation which was increased by Syria's success in Lebanon—its political position has improved.

The Kurdish rebellion, which for so long absorbed Baghdad's military and political energies, was effectively ended when Iran closed its borders to the Kurds after the Algiers agreement in March, 1975.

Such economic and political liberalization as there has been over the past two years is a measure of the confidence of the Government. The economy is firmly controlled by the state and is likely to remain so. In 1974 the private sector contributed 31 per cent of Iraq's gross domestic product but by 1980, as important projects are completed, this contribution will fall to 15 per cent. Economic life is dominated by 15 important state organizations and the state companies they control. The private sector's role is limited and supervised, though in some areas, such as construction, it has done well out of the rapid increase in demand.

The five-year plan has been long delayed—it was meant to be published in April 1976—but its general form is becoming apparent. An estimated \$49,000m will be spent. This year's investment programme, which is part of the plan, showed an increase of 58 per cent over last year. As in Iran, the Iraqis have suffered from rising costs, delays and lack of skilled manpower.

There is a chronic shortage of skilled manpower, especially at middle management level, and administrative deficiencies have led to interruptions in the supply of goods and foodstuffs. On the other hand, the Iraqis seem to have been more successful than Iran in reducing expenditure. They are particularly intent on increasing vocational training and raising the low level of productivity. This year's investment programme shows an increase of 84 per cent in allocations for education.

There is still a long way to go but some of the big obstacles to development were overcome last year. In April the old Iraq Petroleum Company's oil pipeline across Syria was closed because of a dispute over transit fees exacerbated by Syrian intervention in Lebanon. Instead, oil was pumped south through The Gulf.

On January 3, however, the new pipeline from Kirkuk to Turkey's Mediterranean coast was opened and should carry 35 million tons of oil by the end of 1977. In 1976 oil production fell by 5.2 per cent but with the new pipeline open Iraqis do not appear too worried by the result of the Opec conference.

The largest industrial projects are going ahead for all the interruptions of oil revenue. Inevitably the most important are in the oil and gas sectors: \$1,500m of the \$2,000m credits advanced to Iraq by Japan is going to help to finance a liquefied petroleum gas plant at Rumaila, a petrochemical plant at Basra, and an export refinery at Zubair.

Other important projects include sponge iron plants and steelworks, also at Zubair, being built by Creusot-Loire and the \$1,000m phosphate complex at Qaim and Akashat in the Western Desert.

Japan and West Germany have taken a big share in these projects along with the United States and France. Italy, an important importer of Iraqi oil, is also trying hard to increase its exports. If Britain is noticeably absent from the list of important contractors this is probably because of a lack of the credit facilities which the Iraqis want and insufficient government-to-government contact.

In 1976 British exports to Iraq actually fell in dollar terms from \$299m in 1975 to \$267m. In addition the Iraqis are unsympathetic to the problems of other people's inflation.

Though Iraq remains close to the Soviet Union diplomatically, it looks to the West and Japan for technology. This does not mean that there will be any liberalization along the lines of Egypt and latterly Syria. The 10 banks in Iraq were nationalized in 1964. The Central Bank of Iraq controls exchange dealings.

Of the six other banks operating two are principally involved in agriculture. The Industrial Bank increasingly advances money to private industry though this is still on a small scale—\$13m in the first seven months of 1976. It also has a 51 per cent shareholding in 17 projects, though these are still controlled by private shareholders. The Government is also eager to increase the money available to house purchasers.

The Real Estate Bank of Iraq has recently doubled its capital to \$338m. The role of local banks will increase as private income rises but they will remain a subsidiary element within the Iraqi economy. The crucial problem for Iraq remains the need to increase the numbers and quality of manpower.

The author is on the staff of the Middle East Economic Digest.

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How to cope when the oil runs out

centre rather more than a year ago was a move calculated to boost employment not only in the banking sector but to create jobs directly in the ancillary professions such as accountancy and the law and indirectly to allow service industries and retailing in general to expand.

Construction and property have benefited hugely from the boom conditions prevalent in all The Gulf littoral, and capacity in this respect is severely strained at present.

Before the Second World War, however, Bahrain grew rich on oil, one of the first Middle Eastern countries to do so. Production reached its peak of about 70,000 barrels per day in 1972 and has since been declining, reaching an average of 59,000bpd at the end of 1976.

The only large export refinery on the Arabian side of The Gulf is on Sitra Island, where well over half the total 300,000bpd throughput is piped from the neighbouring Dammam fields in Saudi Arabia.

That is one of several examples of how Bahrain benefits from its proximity to Saudi Arabia and specifically to Saudi Arabia's developing eastern province. The very large Saudi natural gas reserves at Khuff were next to be exploited to supply cheap fuel to the energy-intensive Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) smelter.

Alba exceeded its rated target output in 1976 by *producing a record 122,000* tons. The Gulf's largest existing industrial venture, Alba employs 2,000 people, more than 90 per cent of them Bahrainis, and the related extrusion plant due for completion next year will create still more jobs.

The 1977 budget released last month showed a deficit for the second year running of BD14m. Oil revenue for 1977 is projected at BD235.5m (£336.5m) and expenditure at BD249.5m (£356m).

Bahrain has long been a recipient of aid from other Arab oil-exporting states: aid amounted to 5 per cent of the budget last year. Many of the island's schools and medical facilities are financed by the Kuwait *Technical Office, the Sitra* power generation and desalination plant is being paid for in part by the Abu Dhabi Fund and the proposed causeway to Saudi Arabia is to be financed in its entirety by Saudi Arabia if it goes ahead. Bahrain's largest current project, the dry dock, is an OAPEC venture.

It was against this background that the Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) took the decision to invite the world's largest banks to establish offshore units *on* the island to obtain maximum support from the surplus-revenue states in the vicinity.

Landlords were the first Bahrainis to benefit from the arrival of the bankers, who found themselves in the position of having to pay rents of about BD15,000 (£21,500) a year for a three-bedroom house in addition to BD8 *(£11.50) a sq ft for office* space. An hotel room is not to be had for less than BD40 a night and is frequently not to be had at all because of the desperate shortage of accommodation, which is probably the single most important factor inhibiting Bahrain's economic growth today.

The construction of new office buildings, hotels and housing has created a large number of jobs but the construction industry distorts the longer-term picture of *the employment situation.*

All the managers and dealers, bar one who is employed by Citibank, are expatriates. Bahrainis are however, being recruited and trained conscientiously by the banks, and the BMA has expressed its wish to see Bahraini dealers operating within five years.

Apart from its principal international function of channelling liquidity from the surplus revenue countries in the region, the offshore banking unit concept is designed also to develop and improve financial skill at home.

Onshore bank transactions have been characterized by wide spreads and high interest rates on local Gulf currencies—a result of rapid outflows of these funds to other world centres and to some extent of the banks' deep involvement with property.

Now the example of and the competition from large international banks operating offshore is starting to bring down spreads and to improve techniques in general. It was partly with this end in view that the BMA limited offshore licences to "quality" names and partly to prevent Bahrain's becoming a premium market.

The only commercial paper in existence at present is the Alba promissory note which the BMA offers for tender each month. Onshore banks compete vigorously for them and although the note is designed primarily to keep Alba's borrowing costs down, the promissory note helps also to keep funds in use inside Bahrain.

Apart from this only a very few Bahrain dinar certificates of deposit exist and the BMA feels that a market for these and other certificates could develop. About a dozen equities exist but again the overriding difficulty *is the limited size of* the secondary markets.

Without excellent communication facilities there could be no offshore banking units. Bahrain is only four hours from London by Concorde, and the regional airline, Gulf Air, is based on the island and serves 22 capitals. The airport is the largest in The Gulf.

It is, however, telecommunications which are of central importance to Bahrain's growth as a financial centre and in this respect it is the capital of the Middle East. Overseas telephone conversations originating in Bahrain last September totalled 400,000 minutes, *compared with 170,000 minutes* in September 1975.

Direct dialling to London is to be introduced within the next few months and all the principal cities of Europe and North America *as well as the Far East* are available by direct dialling on telex.

Racial harmony is key to success

mountable fact, enacting complex legislation to control immigration side by side with large labour-intensive projects *requiring yet more* immigrant workers. Sooner or later the dichotomy will have to be resolved either by choosing free immigration, plentiful cheap labour and the luxury of duplicated projects, or tight controls on immigration, higher labour costs and effective economic planning.

Although three of the emirates, Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah, are oil exporters *and the other four are* at varying stages of oil exploration, Abu Dhabi is the only emirate enjoying surplus revenue. Oil output of about 1,600,000 barrels per day last year is apparently *to be increased this year in* line with Saudi Arabia.

The two main operating companies are the Abu Dhabi Petroleum Co (ADPC), which has BP, Shell, Compagnie Française des Pétroles (CSFP) and American shareholders, and the Abu Dhabi Marine Authority (ADMA), which is a BP and Japanese concern.

They are 60 per cent owned by the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) which, under the direction of Mr Mahmoud Krouha, of Algeria's Sonatrach organization, has become an umbrella for many industrial ventures in the public sector. Apart from a small domestic refinery opened last year, Abu Dhabi's first large industrial plant is due to start operating this month on Das Island, where two million tonnes a year of liquefied natural gas will be processed for export to Japan.

Onshore a giant industrial *city is planned for the* Ruwais area on the coast, the cornerstone of which will be a petrochemical plant using gases from the three onshore oilfields, followed by other heavy industries. A total *investment of $6,000m to* $7,000m on Ruwais is envisaged over the next five years or so.

Little enthusiasm for private industrial enterprise has been shown by the Abu Dhabi commercial families to date.

Income from property, with rents at 100,000 dirhams a year for a three-bedroom house, is excessively attractive in a country where only citizens—a small minority of the population—are permitted to own land. Construction has long absorbed the largest proportion of bank lending and it is believed that several of the new locally-incorporated banks established since the 1975 moratorium on new foreign banks are heavily committed to property.

A close second is retailing: a merchant will collect many agencies and add very large mark-ups to the imported goods in a country where nearly all consumer requirements are imported.

Late in 1975, as one of a series of moves *designed* to improve the federation's internal prestige, Shaikh *Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahayan* of Abu Dhabi, President of the UAE, pledged half of Abu Dhabi's future revenue from oil to the federal budget.

Mr Mana Saeed al-Oteiba, Minister of Petroleum and *Mineral Resources for the United Arab Emirates,* taking recreation.

The surplus that remains after those contributions and the foreign aid from *Shaikh* Zayed's personal pocket and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development is distributed by the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority which replaced the *London-based investment* board a year ago.

Dubai, the second largest emirate, is the UAE's commercial capital, a status resting on Port Rashid's capacity to handle imports destined for the whole country rather than on its 350,000bpd oil production.

The 17-berth port is being extended to 37 berths in addition to the new port under construction at Jebel Ali, Dubai's future heavy industry area and site of the next airport. It is already mooted that Jebel Ali will require large numbers of new immigrant workers and that special immigration arrangements will need to be worked *out to ensure their* availability.

Dubai has long been a prosperous trading centre and is directed as such by the ruler, Shaikh Rashid bin Sa'id al Maktum, and a core of mer*chant families* to whom he is always available. The 39-storey international trade centre, which has reached its twentieth floor, is seen as a facility which will enable Dubai to retain its entrepôt status.

Although trade absorbs the largest part of bank credit in Dubai, the city, like Abu Dhabi, is experiencing a mania for construction and Shaikh Rashid actively encourages Dubai citizens of modest means to develop *their land by building* property for rent. Two years ago he created a 200m dirham property fund to extend interest-free loans to citizens for this purpose, repayable out of the rent received on *completion of the building.*

Last month Shaikh Rashid and Shaikh Zayed both announced new funds to involve citizens in property-based prosperity, in Shaikh Rashid's case by contributing 300m dirham (£43m) personally to a 1,000m dirham (£145m) fund to be opened to the public through the public subscription of shares, itself a new concept.

The timing of the announcement, on the same day as a Eurodollar loan and an ECGD-backed line of credit were signed for the construction and equipping of the aluminium smelter, may indicate the internal importance of bringing citizens as well as foreign companies more and more into the economy. Many Dubai merchants are entering into joint construction ventures with large overseas concerns, all of them British to date.

Sharjah, with 50,000bpd of oil, is promoting itself as a financial service and leisure centre. Ras al-Khaimah, which will become an oil exporter before the end of the year, is the only emirate *boasting something* like an agricultural base.

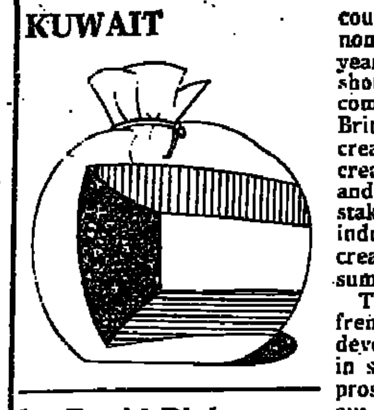
Al Fujayrah, Ajman and Umm al Qaywayn are three emirates which have been affected the most dramatically by federal spending and are understandably strong federationists. Until the beginning of this decade individual families supported themselves in considerable poverty by fishing or goat-herding in an almost no-cash economy. All are now wit*nessing the construction* of modern housing and health facilities and transport as well as oil exploration.

Budgeted expenditure on these projects amounted to 4,000m dirhams in 1976 (£570m). The economic and social effect has been the creation of jobs not only through direct spending but also through the expansion of Civil Service departments which have combined to reverse the flow of young people out of the small emirates.

A.F.

Equipped to cope with comfort

KUWAIT



by David Blake

Of all the countries in the Middle East, Kuwait is perhaps the one which was best equipped to cope with the sudden upsurge in oil revenues which followed the increase in oil prices in 1973.

The country has long been known to have huge reserves of oil, which make it the third ranking oil state, in the world after Saudi Arabia and Iran, both of which have much bigger populations. For a considerable period during the late 1950s and early 1960s, it was the Gulf's biggest producer, and the experience of surpluses which it then accumulated enabled it to develop a system of overseas investment to cope with handling surplus funds.

Domestically, too, the country has been carrying out some of the ambitious industrial and social development plans which could be no more than dreams for other oil producers before the rise in oil prices.

The result has been that Kuwait has been rather less affected than some other countries by massive economic change in recent years. Income per head has shot up to £5,012 in 1974, compared with £1,471 in Britain, but much of the increase has gone into increased foreign investment and the buying out of foreign stakes in the country's oil industry rather than increased imports for consumption.

There is also a less frenetic air to the country's development plan than exists in some countries where the prospect of the oil running out is a real one. For with an estimated 70 or 80 years' supply still available, even at present rates of production, that prospect is remote. By the time that happens, most Kuwaitis could probably live in great comfort off the earnings from their overseas holdings.

How large these overseas holdings are is not entirely clear but if state and private holdings are added together, then a figure of about \$20,000m would not seem improbable. Those holdings generate earnings of about \$1,000m a year, a sum which is rising fast but which already is worth some £600 a year for every man, woman and child.

The difficulty of running a country where there are such large inflows to the community as a whole is above all that of labour. Labour shortages of all kinds have persistently held back economic development, and pose a threat to the achievement of the targets of the present development plan, which involves spending £10,000m over the five years to 1980.

The biggest task facing the country in this period is without doubt housing, which has been allocated some £2,800m in what is to be a crash programme to eliminate some of the worst shortages.

Housing is a particularly sensitive issue since some of the worst difficulties are faced by the immigrant workers who have been attracted in increasing numbers to keep the wheels of the Kuwaiti economy turning. They now outnumber native Kuwaitis, and their preponderance in the workforce at 74 per cent is even greater. This is because a high proportion of Kuwaiti citizens are too young to be part of the working population.

The industries which are being most strongly encouraged are the oil-related petrochemical industries. Not only do they have ready access to feedstock, some of which would otherwise be wasted, but they require great quantities of capital, which is available in abundance, and little of the scarce labour.

In spite of attempts to build up this industry, which is expected to absorb some \$3,000m over the next five years, production and the export of crude oil continue to dominate the Kuwaiti economy. Exports in 1976 were about \$8,500m, roughly the same as in 1975 but considerably lower than in 1974, when they were \$9,857m.

The drop was caused by heavy production cutbacks, which in turn were caused by a decline in demand in the West and the fact that Kuwait's oil is relatively expensive. Total production in 1975 was 749,637,000 barrels, compared with 929,400,000 barrels in 1974.

The fact that Kuwait relies so heavily on a state-owned asset for its prosperity means that the public sector is the most important source of investment and wealth. But there is also a very wealthy merchant class, and a small number of families control very substantial fortunes.

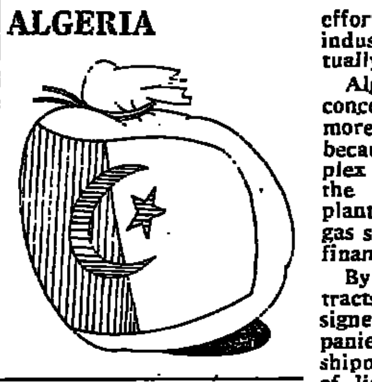
The need for this group to find investments has sparked off a property boom within the country and has also significantly affected the structure of banking in the country. Kuwait limits ownership in banks to Kuwaiti nationals, although there is heavy European and American involvement in management. There are six commercial banks in the country, all operating under the control of the Central Bank.

In addition, the Industrial Bank of Kuwait, also wholly Kuwaiti owned, provides finance for industry, often on excellent terms. The country's three investment companies, which operate in the Eurobond markets, are also wholly owned by Kuwaitis, with the traditional mix of government and private capital.

So far, foreign involvement has been restricted to an advisory or service role, with some of the world's leading banks setting up companies in Kuwait to provide services to Kuwaiti owned organizations. Kuwait's determination to restrict foreign investors to this rather limited range of activities has led to some criticism. Although there were signs at one time last year that this policy might be relaxed, such action now seems unlikely.

Big spending threatens development

ALGERIA



by Francis Ghiles

As befits a member of OAPEC, oil remains Algeria's single most important hard currency earner, contributing 90 per cent of the country's export revenue. Production climbed to 51 million tons in 1973, declined in the next two years but picked up again in 1976. Some observers thought that Algeria was producing as much oil as it could in 1975 (43 million tons) but in retrospect that appears to have been a pessimistic view.

However, when the head of the state oil company Sonatrach recently forecast that Algeria would be producing 100 million tons of oil a year by 1985, many observers were sceptical. The only way such a forecast could be close to the truth is if Algeria made another important discovery: rumours have been rife in recent months but no official confirmation of a big find has been made.

Trends in future oil production are thus not clear but are important to know: indeed, income from oil exports provides the financial underpinning for Algeria's development effort. When oil production falls, as it did in 1974 and 1975, Algeria has to borrow more on the foreign capital markets or through export credits to realize the ambitious goals of its four-year \$27,500m development plan scheduled for completion at the end of the present year.

Over the longer term, Algeria is making a big effort to build a gas export industry which will eventually replace oil exports.

Algeria's biggest gamble concerns natural gas, all the more difficult to pull off because of the highly complex technology involved, the size of the liquefying plants and liquefied natural gas ships, not to mention the financing.

By far the largest contracts, six so far, have been signed with American companies; they provide for the shipping of 1,200,000m cu ft of liquefied natural gas by 1980. The United States Federal Energy Agency and the Federal Power Commission have not yet granted approval and will not do so for many months. The reasons are not hard to understand.

The United States needs gas badly; whereas world wide there is a surplus of oil and sufficient shipping capacity to deliver it, such is not the case with gas which supplies 30 per cent of all American energy needs and feeds industries for which substitute fuels are not suitable. The United States is running out of gas and there is not time enough to avoid a shortage by providing substitute fuels.

Against this pressing need one must mention bureaucratic delays, the divergence between government and industry and more basically the lack of any government policy, all of which are slowing down the decision-making process.

These delays are not entirely surprising: the authorities are afraid of becoming too dependent on one source of energy coming from one country. Furthermore, contracts would run for 20 to 25 years, not a length of time the authorities are used to. The problems of financing remain considerable despite the fact that Algeria has been able to borrow considerable amounts of money.

Last, but not often mentioned, many officials in Washington are afraid that Algeria will play politics with its gas. This seems unlikely on the face of it because turning off the gas taps would be a ruinous proposition and Algeria could ill afford it. The country's leaders are intent on building a solid industrial base and, however much they may pursue radical policies in foreign affairs, Algeria's economic interests remain paramount. The authorities do not mix business with politics.

The gas programme, however, is running 18 months late and export capacity is sure to be well below the target set for 1980, 48,600m cu metres. How far below can only be guessed; 50 per cent at least say the pessimists, less say the optimists who point out that Algeria has pulled off some remarkable gambles since it became independent in 1962.

Because of its enormous expenditure on development projects, Algeria is short of cash and thus faces an uphill battle to maintain the high level of its development expenditure. The four-year plan was based on a price of \$16 a barrel for oil and oil receipts have been below this figure since 1974.

Meanwhile, expenditure requirements have increased—the cost of both food and capital requirements goes up all the time. Borrowing abroad has been on a great scale although it is easy to be alarmist: most of the money goes into capital investment and not consumer expenditure. Most modern economies have developed by borrowing money from foreign creditors.

The barriers to development are not peculiar to Algeria although the wrecked state of the country when the French left in 1962 has made matters more difficult. There are three important points. First there are bureaucratic restraints, which as any visitor to Algeria knows, can assume huge proportions and corruption is far from unknown.

Then there is a lack of trained manpower despite the considerable efforts made to educate young Algerians. Eighty-five per cent of the population was illiterate 14 years ago and time is short, especially when the country's planners systematically buy the most advanced machinery they can find. Algeria's desire for self-reliance and control over its own affairs is very strong but too many consultancy contracts are handed out at highly over-inflated prices.

Finally, physical capacity restraints are severe: the rapid pace of building has resulted in the supply of cement, water and transport services often outstripping supply.

The cost of delays is well illustrated by the fact that the state shipping company Compagnie Nationale Algérienne de Navigation (CNAN), which will normally haul 50 per cent of gas in any deal, has had to lay up the 125,000 cu metres liquid natural gas container ship Ben Boulaid it took delivery of last autumn.

The lay-up costs are expensive: berth preparation (\$133,000, once only); monthly running (\$33,000) and recommissioning (\$330,000, once only). Another five ships are scheduled for delivery between August, 1977, and December, 1978. CNAN is reckoned to be the most efficient shipping company in the Arab world, an aggressively commercially minded one as its organization of trips to Mecca during the pilgrimage well show. But if the gas programme is late, CNAN faces highly increased costs. CNAN says that during the early years interest costs could eat up 80 per cent of total revenues.

Hence the resistance of some bankers to lending more money to Algeria which borrowed an estimated \$1,000m on the Euromarkets in 1976. CNAN is negotiating a \$200m loan in London but has fiercely resisted any increase in the spread it paid last time, that is $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent over London Inter-Bank Offered Rate. The company has been helped by declining rates but if rates were to rise, as they seem likely to do this year, bargaining could get really tough.

The author is a staff writer on Euromoney and a specialist on North African affairs.

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…siness recovery comes as surprise

…k Cockburn

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… however, have … of a small en… economy. The factories which were lost were nearly all small. Once business was given sufficient capital small enterprises could be set up again fairly quickly. Greek Cypriots also tend to be well educated: one in 40 is a student and in the towns bilingualism in Greek and English is common.

The capital to reequip industry and agriculture came partly from the Bank of Cyprus but mainly from foreign loans and grants. Since the total number of Greek Cypriots is only a little over half a million, aid from Greece, the United States and the EEC countries goes a long way. The World Bank, for instance, is lending $14m towards the cost of the $45m Paphos irrigation scheme on the west of the island.

On top of this the Greek Cypriots had some luck. There has not been a really bad harvest since 1973 and last year the potato crop brought in £28m as prices in Britain, the main export market, soared. Then the civil war in Lebanon brought in 76,000 Lebanese who filled the previously empty hotels. Bona fide tourists from Britain began to come back.

Enormous difficulties remain. Until there is some sort of settlement it is unlikely that there will be substantial private investment from overseas. With Cyprus, where traditionally money is invested in land and property, long-term projects are still regarded with probably unnecessary caution by business. "Today capital is not moving, most of it is in current account", a leading Central Bank official remarked, in the middle of last year.

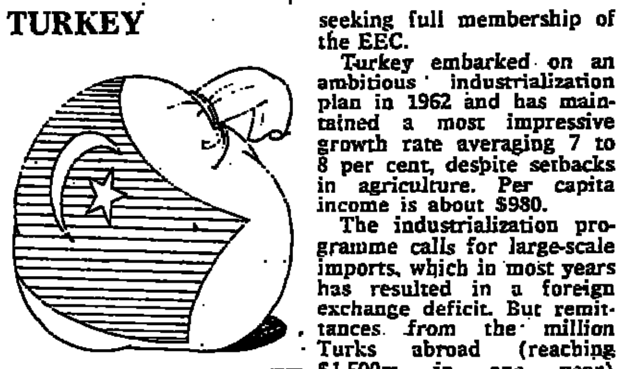
There are also practical difficulties. Nicosia's airport is still out of operation, the road between Larnaca and Nicosia is cut and many businesses are absorbing the losses they suffered in 1974. Institutions like the Cyprus Development Bank suffered particularly badly.

But the war has made Cyprus more conscious of its position and advantages as an island close to Syria and Lebanon. In future the Cypriot economy will probably be increasingly oriented away from its traditional markets in Britain and Western Europe, towards the Middle East.

Some of Istanbul's 4,500,000 people. Unemployment plagues the Turkish economy as people leave the farms faster than industry can absorb them.

Two difficult years for odd man out

TURKEY



by Betty Yaser

Turkey is something of a phenomenon in the Middle East, fitting into no particular category. Although the population is mostly Muslim, it is a secular state and a republic. Turkey is also non-Arab and can only manage to meet a quarter of its crude oil needs from domestic sources. Geographically situated as a land bridge between Europe and Asia, with a 610km border with Russia, Turkey has leant towards the West, is a long-standing Nato ally and is seeking full membership of the EEC.

Turkey embarked on an ambitious industrialization plan in 1962 and has maintained a most impressive growth rate averaging 7 to 8 per cent, despite setbacks in agriculture. Per capita income is about $980.

The industrialization programme calls for large-scale imports, which in most years has resulted in a foreign exchange deficit. But remittances from the million Turks abroad (reaching $1,500m in one year) alleviate the deficit.

Exports are mostly of an agricultural nature, though more diversified and containing more manufactures than most Middle East countries.

Turkey has been affected by the oil crisis. Expenditure on oil took up more than 45 per cent of export earnings in 1976. The recession in world trade lowered the expected export growth, and inflation within Turkey has been greatly accelerated by increased world prices.

Inflation has been 15 to 25 per cent a year for the past few years and does not seem to be easing. Unemployment and underemployment plague the Turkish economy as people leave the farms faster than newly developing industry can absorb them. The labour force also grows rapidly because of the 2.4 per cent annual population growth rate.

The past two years have been particularly difficult for Turkey politically and economically. It is striving to operate within a democratic framework despite coalition stalemates, but the conflicts within the Government have led to delays in making economic decisions.

The decision to intervene in Cyprus in the summer of 1974 resulted in an arms embargo by the United States, which put sharp pressure on the defence budget. It also tended to bring the Turks closer to the Eastern block, as witnessed by several economic agreements with the Soviet Union, Romania and Bulgaria.

Turkey has become friendlier with the Arab world, particularly Iraq, and with Iran. At the same time, relations with the EEC have deteriorated, partly because Turkey does not believe it has received the special concessions granted to third countries. Enthusiasm for membership of the EEC has waned in Turkey.

The private sector is important in industrial production, but the state was the initiator of modern growth with the establishment of Sumerbank in 1935. The state soon set up several bank/holding companies which not only performed commercial banking operations but also had industrial subsidiaries.

These banks generally give specialized loans but compete with private banks for funds. There are 22 private commercial banks, six foreign and two small local banks. Branch banking is extensive with more than 4,420 branches throughout Turkey and abroad.

The use of banking services has grown steadily even though there is still no widespread use of cheques. Banks are subject to a special banking law and the commercial code. The Central Bank establishes the interest and rediscount rate structures, reserve requirements and often interferes in other ways to limit credit according to plan targets.

The Central Bank also administers all foreign exchange transactions, leaving little initiative to banks. The Ministry of Finance sets the foreign loan and deposit criteria, restricting and releasing the flows as necessary. As a result the Turkish commercial banking system is not very flexible and banks often resort to non-price competition.

Foreign banks, restricted by the Banking Law, are not very active and foreign investment is small in Turkey. There is not much likelihood that foreign banks will be welcomed. Turkish banks have recently become more active in attracting foreign deposits with the reactivation of the convertible lira deposit accounts.

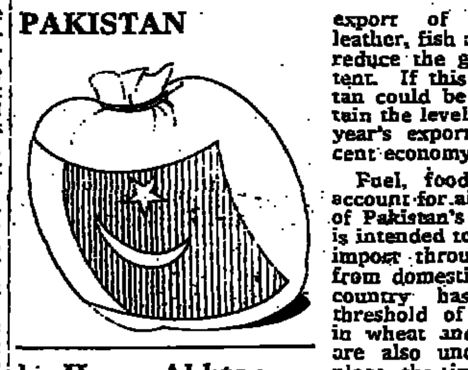
These accounts allow foreigners and Turks abroad to deposit foreign exchange with a guaranteed exchange rate and interest at 1.75 per cent net over the Euro-market rate. The funds can be lent by the banks in either foreign exchange or Turkish lira, thus creating credit flows in Turkey and a course of short and medium-term foreign deficit finance.

Turkey hopes to attract oil producers' capital eventually through the higher interest rate incentive, but in the meantime is attracting the capital of some foreign banks, individuals, and parent companies wishing to finance their Turkish subsidiary.

With the growth of the Turkish economy and its dealings abroad it is expected that the banking system will be given more flexibility to act on its own initiative. Evidence of this already exists.

Floods and pests cut back cotton crop

PAKISTAN



by Hasan Akhtar

Pakistan's predominantly agrarian economy is in transition with foundations being laid for heavy manufacturing industry and remunerative agriculture. The immediate outlook does not appear too bright but the diversion of a sizable chunk of resources is expected to accelerate the pace of development when various projects initiated by government in industrial and agricultural sectors go into production.

Even three decades after independence Pakistan is heavily dependent on nature's bounties for its economic health. Favourable weather yields a rich harvest, foreign exchange earnings increase industrial production and the buoyant economy is reflected in greater economic activity and better employment opportunities whereas vagaries of weather can drastically and suddenly change the entire picture.

During the current year Pakistan faces prospects of its biggest deficit in its balance of payments because of a failure for the second consecutive year of the cotton crop, the country's principal foreign exchange earner. The expected gap of $850m in foreign trade is expected to rise to $1,000m because there were no exports of cotton. Cotton yarn and textile exports were expected to earn $570m out of total exports of $1,250m. Floods and pests destroyed hopes of a bumper cotton crop and, as against an estimated four million bales, only 2,900,000 bales are expected. Two million eight hundred thousand bales are required for processing by indigenous industry.

An improvement in the export of textiles, rice, leather, fish and carpets may reduce the gap to some extent. If this happens Pakistan could be lucky to maintain the level of the previous year's exports and a 5 per cent economy growth rate.

Fuel, food and fertilizer account for about 50 per cent of Pakistan's import bill. It is intended to cut down their import through substitution from domestic sources. The country has crossed the threshold of self-sufficiency in wheat and sugar. Steps are also under way to replace the import of edible oils costing $120m. through the cultivation of oil rich seeds.

A crash programme for searching for oil has been launched and only recently efforts in this direction have been rewarded with the discovery of substantial oil and gas reserves valued at $5,000m in the Deraghazi Khan district of Punjab. Foreign exploiters are being offered attractive concessions in oil exploration.

A large deficit in the balance of payments resulting from higher costs of imports, inflation and recession, coupled with natural disasters such as floods, drought and earthquakes, has been largely offset by the flow of substantial aid from consortium countries and oil-rich Islamic states. Foreign debt liability touched $6,600m from $4,000m four years ago. Opec also extended timely aid with the offer of about $900m to meet the effects of the oil price rise.

Portfolio of joint ventures grows

Prices keep exerting upward pressure although a slight improvement has been discernible lately. The portfolio of joint ventures with the Middle East and African countries has expanded vastly. Pakistan's concentration on obtaining financial assistance from these countries has yielded tangible results in securing Iranian, Saudi, Libyan and United Arab Emirates financial support in establishing fertilizer factories, livestock complexes, a refinery, joint shipping lines, a publishing house and a holding investment company.

Significant results have been achieved in the manufacture and export of heavy machinery. A heavy mechanical complex near Rawalpindi, equipped to manufacture sugar and cement plants, is making four complete sugar plants based on the latest techniques. The Rawalpindi complex built and shipped complete steel rerolling and sulphuric acid plants to the UAE last year.

Pakistan has a small armaments industry, but only recently it was disclosed that the base for the armaments industry was being expanded so as to enable ordnance factories progressively to assemble and manufacture advanced military equipment including missiles, fighter aircraft, submarines and electronic devices. China and some East European countries with possible French assistance and Gulf states money are said to be helping Pakistan in building its armaments industry.

The Government's socialist economic programme and nationalization of all vital sectors of industrial production and finance have brought private investment almost to a standstill.

Foreign investment remained untouched, but in five years the Government took over from private control banks, life insurance, shipping, various agrarian-based industries and 10 key industries. In an effort to attract foreign private investment the Government formulated a scheme for a duty-free processing zone for exportable manufactures.

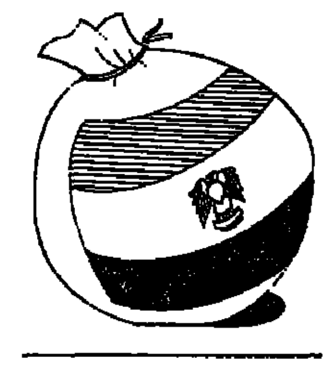
Commercial banks were nationalized in January, 1973. Banking, however, continues to be expanded. Rural areas and priority sectors are receiving an inflow of credit. Two thousand new bank branches have been set up to cover towns and large villages. In three years bank advances rose by 90 per cent representing Rs 10,350m. Bank deposits were at a highest level of more than Rs 29,280m with Rs 3,260m increase in the previous year alone.

Special financial institutions have also been operating to extend credit to industries in public and private sectors and to meet loan requirements of specific sectors such as agriculture and housing.

…abia

Italian deal reflects change

LIBYA



by Atef Sultan

Speculation that Libya was going bankrupt came to a halt late last year after the decision by the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank (LAFB) to invest $415m in the Italian firm of Fiat. The deal, which makes Libya the second biggest shareholder in one of Europe's largest companies, also represents the first significant move by a Middle East state to buy into the Italian industry.

It also reflects a drastic change in Libya's official investment abroad. Although Libya has been committing itself to some large investments in many of the African and Asian countries as well as in a number of East European countries, it rarely invested in the West before the Fiat deal. The fact that the move was taken despite Libya's uneasy relations with Italy, since the expulsion of the Italians in 1970, has also added to its significance.

In 1975, Libya's current account recorded an unprecedented deficit amounting to $483m compared with a huge surplus of $1,766m achieved in 1974. After this, there was speculation that Libya was facing serious cash problems, as bills presented by its big foreign contractors were said not to have been met in time. The Government's decision, taken in January 1976, envisaging steep public expenditure cuts was also taken as an indication of Libya's weakening financial position.

Libya's financial reserves are built up almost entirely from its trade surpluses. Although these showed some fluctuations during the past seven years, their values remained considerable. In 1970, Libya's trade surplus was put at £L644m and this rose to £L700m in 1970 but it declined to £L623m in the following year. It rose again to £L656m in 1973 and it reached its peak of £L1,628m in 1974 as a result of the massive 1973 oil price rise. In 1975, it declined again reaching only £L974m.

Libya's exports consist almost wholly of oil. Thus its trade surplus is almost completely governed by the quantity of oil sold abroad. Libya has been able to maintain a differential premium which it charged for its oil. Its light crude is not only conveniently close to the European markets and thus costing less to ship, but also of good quality and low gravity and of a fairly low sulphur content which means that it is cheaper to refine.

But this has not always worked in favour of its oil exports. After the steep price rise of 1973, some of the international oil companies found it cheaper to buy lower-cost Gulf oil which did not carry sulphur premium and consequently demand for Libyan oil had fallen back.

But the government policy of reducing oil liftings since 1971 has also been responsible for a sharp drop in exports, with a corresponding loss of income. Up to the end of 1975 (1973 excepted), Libyan oil exports had consistently declined from its peak in 1970, when it reached 1,207 million barrels, to 793 million barrels in 1972 and to only 544 million barrels in 1974.

In early 1975 production was raised to one million barrels a day, but was almost doubled in the summer after price cuts were made. It fell steeply, however, in the latter months of the year, partly because of Libya's dispute with the American Occidental Petroleum Corporation, one of the biggest foreign companies operating in Libya, over concessions and liftings rates.

Although the 1975 production remained almost unchanged compared with the previous year, oil exports fell by a further 4 per cent in 1975. Despite a government decision to boost oil production to 800 million barrels during 1976, according to recent estimates, actual production stood at 700 million barrels. Although 12.5 per cent below target, this gave Libya's crude exports their first significant rise since 1970.

The recent increase in Libya's oil exports has also considerably improved its official international reserves which rose to $2,900m earlier last year compared with $2,355m reached in June 1975. In 1973, Libya's foreign reserves plunged to $2,127m, the lowest since 1970, and that was said to have been caused by the large payments made by Libya to other Arab states during the October 1973 war.

Those payments do not appear in Libya's Central Bank accounts but the size of its net errors and omissions is believed to represent such transfers. Those transfers declined steeply since 1974 and a rapid recovery in Libya's foreign reserves has been recorded since.

The fact that Libya is a rich country with a fairly small population (estimated at 2,700,000 in 1975) has meant that a large part of its financial surpluses could be channelled into development programmes.

Under its three-year development plan (1973-75), total investments amounted to £2,586m and remarkable economic and social progress has been achieved. By 1975, Libya's economy had become one of the fastest growing in the world and its per capita income during that year amounted to more than $4,600.

In January 1976, Libya launched its biggest and most ambitious development programme, the five-year economic and social transformation plan extending to 1980. The plan envisages a total expenditure of £L7,525m of which £L1,520m will be spent this year. Massive agricultural and heavy industrial projects are included in the plan which aims at reducing the economy's dependence on the oil sector.

It is expected that up to 1980, Libya's gross national product will grow by 10.7 per cent a year leading to a real per capita income of more than $6,000 by 1980.

Obstacles to carrying out such an ambitious programme are considerable. Apart from the continuous rise in the price of imported capital goods, the country's communications and services present a serious difficulty.

But Libya's biggest difficulty is the serious shortage in skilled labour and administrative staff. Nearly a third of Libya's workforce is imported and it has been projected that Libya's need for foreign workers will increase considerably to reach more than 40 per cent of its workforce by 1980.

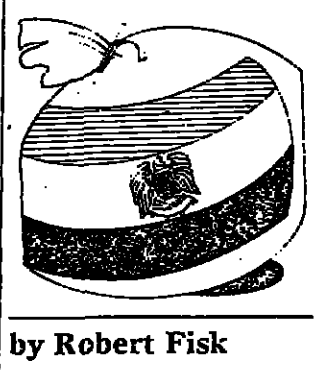
Reliance on manpower from abroad involves not only economic and social factors but also political considerations whose future cannot be accurately assessed. It is therefore, the availability of manpower which will almost determine the prospects of Libya's development.

The author is on the staff of the Middle East Economic Digest.

Egyptian rioters protest at increased food prices. Left: police stand guard near the Interior Ministry in Cairo. Right: citizens watch what is left of and burnt car.

Looking at oases in a parched desert

EGYPT



by Robert Fisk

Exploring the Egyptian economy is rather like looking over a parched desert with few oases in sight. Across the swathes of sand and dunes, there are small, bright green patches of fertility which distract the onlooker from the wilderness all around. But a glance to the left or right reveals that the sand stretches into the horizon as far as the eye can see.

It is only fair, perhaps, to look at the oases first. There are three of them—blossoming, hopeful and productive omens. The most famous (and the most hopeful) is the Suez Canal.

When the Egyptians decided to reopen it most economists believed that the project would turn into a financial disaster. Yet in its first year, the Canal Authority picked up £125m in revenue. Last year the projected revenue from international shipping was more than £261m and—although the official figures have not yet been published—American economists in Cairo regard the projection as accurate.

The second oasis is on the edge of the real desert. Two hundred miles south-east of Cairo on the edge of the Gulf of Suez, where foreign companies last year made three oil strikes which should increase Egypt's oil output from 290,000 barrels a day — the figure achieved at the Abu Rudeis fields vacated by the Israelis — to one million barrels a day.

The estimate is probably over-optimistic but the nation is now almost self-sufficient in oil and the Government plans to spend £1.75m in the next six years on oil exploration, further oilfield development and pipelines.

The third encouraging source of revenue for Egypt is its tourist industry. Last year just over a million visitors came to the country to see the magnificent ruins of the Pharaohs and to enjoy the beauty of the Nile valley up to Aswan. About half of them came from Europe.

It is a slowly increasing sector of the economy, made no speedier by the destruction of one of Cairo's largest hotels—to make room for another—so that the Egyptian capital now offers fewer beds than it did two years ago. Add to this income the large but uncalculated resources from Egyptians working abroad who send much of their earnings home (250,000 for instance, are employed in Libya alone), and there the good news comes to an end.

The remainder of the Egyptian economy, as one western banker in Cairo described it, is "a shambles". Unable to honour all its debts, constantly seeking aid to pay its way and appealing for the rescheduling of military loan repayments, Egypt had a budget deficit last year of almost £2,500m. It was in an attempt to make up this financial chasm that President Sadat approved the raising of basic food prices by as much as 33 per cent in January and brought about the most serious riots in Egypt's modern history.

Every year about half a million people are added to Egypt's 38 million population and the estimated 40 per cent who are employed work in industries which cannot create enough exports to pay for food imports. Egypt has always had a deficit in its commodity trade balance and this existed even before the years of Nasser's carefully guided and unsuccessful socialist-nationalized economic policies. President Sadat therefore tried to create new growth by pushing this economy into reverse, opening the frontiers to western industrialization and investment.

What he got was the worst of both worlds. The Government loosened its grip on industry and introduced an investment law in 1974 which liberalized trade relations. But what poured into Egypt was not investment but western luxury goods—new foreign cars, washing machines, refrigerators and clothes which made the poor envious and the rich more conscious of their wealth.

The Government was committed to subsidizing food and to supporting the great mass of the population. Nearly nine million of them were crowded into the largely broken and sub-standard suburbs of Cairo that each year expand into Egypt's precious arable land. The trade deficit rose greatly and exports only marginally increased. Between 1973 and 1976, for example, there was a 50 per cent rise in exports but a 400 per cent rise in imports.

In desperation, Egypt borrowed abroad and printed more money at home. The current inflation rate is thought to be 50 per cent although the Government acknowledges only 35 per cent. Egypt now has a total debt (according to one leading foreign economist) of about £12,500m.

This is why Egypt has been trying vainly to persuade the Russians to reschedule the repayment dates of some of the enormous military debts incurred during Egypt's Middle East wars and why its economists are trying to make the investment laws more attractive to foreigners.

They are doing this in two ways. First by unifying the multiple currency rates — tourist and official — for those creating employment, and second by granting a moderate tax holiday to investors.

They are also supposed to have cut red tape although there are bankers in Cairo who believe that Egypt's self-multiplying bureaucracy cannot be overcome so easily.

Anyone who has dealt even marginally with Egyptian banks will know how banking activities have become bogged down in ... and muddle. Wh... tral Bank last ... allegations that ... banks could not h... seas obligations ... days, few econ... lieved it. The ... say that 10 days ... mum but it is n...

Any foreign ... lend in Egypt m... that the Kuwaitis will bail them ou... just manages to ... western debts", ... says. "This is ... for long-term ... banking. It's ... have an office he... cause so many ... through Cairo. ... Egyptian financia... ity all over the M... British banks he... the triangle of Br... rience, Saudi capi... Egyptian location...

As many as ... banks have oper... sentative offices ... Only one has ... Four have full bra... in the capital. ... banks are not onl... by red tape for bu... reasons", anothe... says. "There are ... in the Egyptian ba... fession who do ... President Sadat's ... They do not wa... investment".